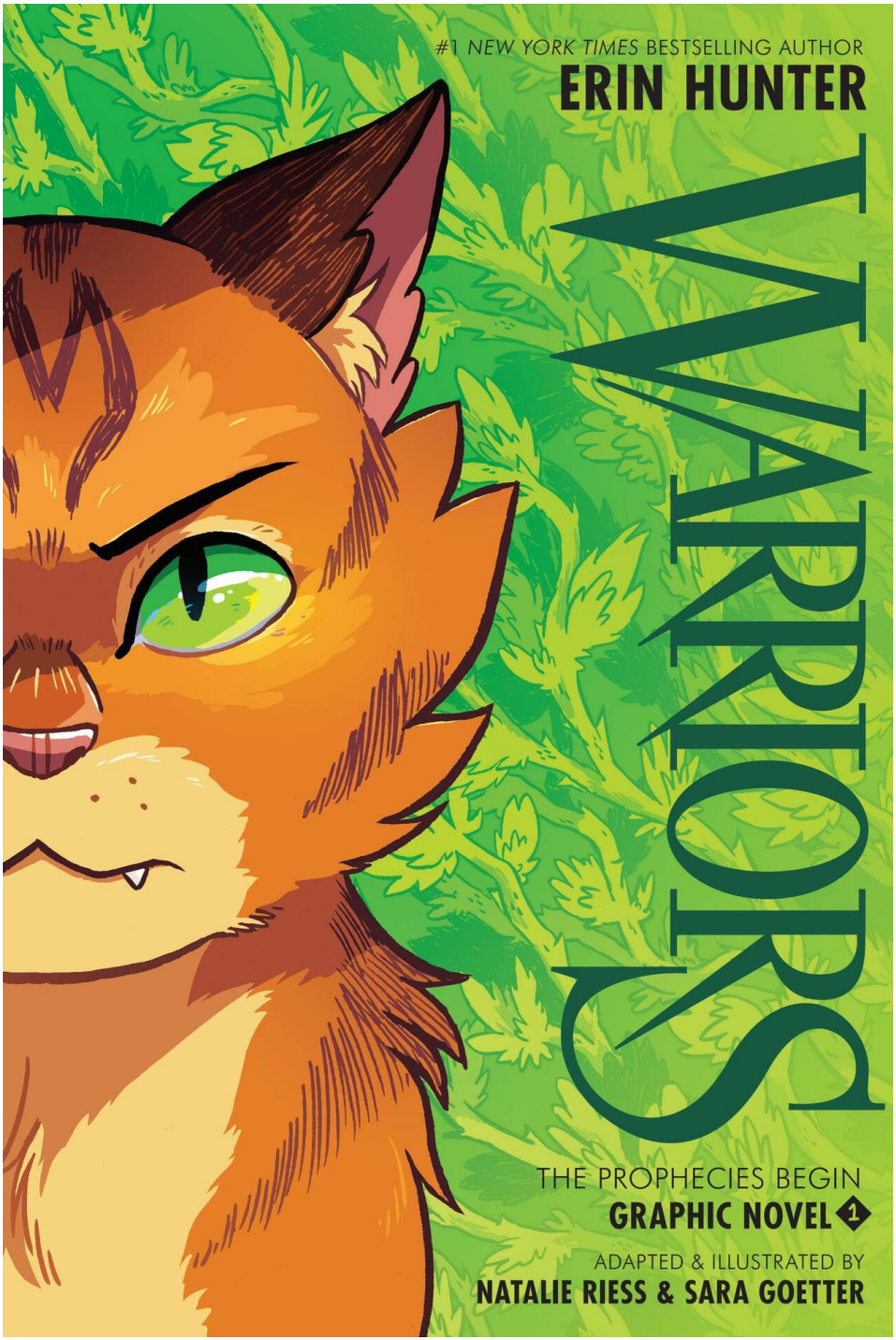
#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
ERIN HUNTER
WARRIORS
THE PROPHECIES BEGIN
GRAPHIC NOVEL 1
ADAPTED & ILLUSTRATED BY
NATALIE RIESS & SARA GOETTER

WARRIORS

THE PROPHECIES BEGIN
GRAPHIC NOVEL

CREATED BY
ERIN HUNTER

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An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

For Maggie, Georgia, and Eleanor.

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Warriors Graphic Novel: The Prophecies Begin #1
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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
FIRST EDITION

OAKHEART...
HOW DARE YOU HUNT IN THUNDERCLAN TERRITORY?!
tch.
AFTER TONIGHT...
...SUNNINGROCKS WILL BELONG TO RIVERCLAN!

TIGERCLAW!
THERE ARE TOO MANY! THUNDERCLAN MUST RETREAT!
THUNDERCLAN HAS NOT BEEN DEFEATED IN ITS OWN TERRITORY SINCE I BECAME LEADER.
THESE ARE DIFFICULT TIMES FOR US.

THE SEASON OF NEWLEAF IS LATE, AND THERE HAVE BEEN FEWER KITS.
IF THUNDERCLAN IS TO SURVIVE...

...WE MUST HAVE NEW WARRIORS.

BLUESTAR, LOOK!

IT MUST BE A MESSAGE...
...FROM STARCLAN!
SPOTTEDLEAF, WHAT DOES IT--
...fire...
...FIRE ALONE...
...CAN SAVE OUR CLAN!

PART ONE:
INTO THE WILD

SNIFF SNIFF
CRUNCH

DREAMING OF MICE...
...AGAIN.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
RUSTY
gulp!
TINK
TNKL
TNK!
TINK.

HELLO, RUSTY!
OH, HEY, SMUDGE!
PRINCESS!

YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF GOING INTO THOSE WOODS, ARE YOU?
JUST FOR A LOOK!
ISN'T THAT A BIT... DANGEROUS?
RUSTY, YOU KNOW WHAT HENRY SAYS ABOUT THE WOODS, RIGHT?
HE SAYS THE WOODS ARE FULL OF DANGEROUS ANIMALS WITH BIG, SHARP TEETH...
LIKE BIG, MEAN WILDCATS WHO EAT LIVE RABBITS FOR BREAKFAST AND THEN SHARPEN THEIR CLAWS ON OLD BONES! AND THEN--
I'M JUST GOING FOR A LOOK, OKAY?
TNK
PLEASE BE CAREFUL, RUSTY!
WATCH OUT FOR WILDCATS, RUSTY!
OKAY, OKAY...

TNKL-
TNK!
sniff
sniff
tnk
WAIT.
WHAT'S THAT?
TNK!

TP
TP
KRCH!
TPT
TNK
...PAW STEPS?
TP
TP
TP
TNK!
MMRROW!
TNK
TNK

TINK
TINK
TINK
TINK
TINK!
TINK!
HE'S STILL CHASING ME!

FINE!
I'D RATHER GO DOWN FIGHTING!
COME ON--
TINK
BOOF!

PAFF!
HISSS!!!
HEY THERE, KITTYPET!
Kitty-what?
YOU PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT FOR A TAME LITTLE THING...
...BUT DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S DANGEROUS HERE IN THE WOODS?

IF *YOU'RE* THE MOST DANGEROUS THING OUT HERE, I THINK I CAN HANDLE IT!
WHO, ME?
DEFINITELY NOT!

I'M GRAYPAW!
I'M STILL IN *TRAINING* TO BE A *THUNDERCLAN WARRIOR.*
I'M AN *APPRENTICE.*

IF I WAS A FULL WARRIOR...
I'D HAVE GIVEN YOU SOME *REAL* WOUNDS TO THINK ABOUT!

AAAAANYWAY...
IT'S NOT WORTH IT TO HURT YOU, SINCE YOU'RE *CLEARLY* NOT FROM ONE OF THE OTHER *WARRIOR CLANS!*
OTHER WARRIOR CLANS? THERE ARE *MORE* OF YOU?

YOU MUST HAVE HEARD OF THE FOUR WARRIOR CLANS?
...
EACH CLAN IS A GROUP OF WILD CATS THAT LIVE AROUND HERE.
THESE ARE THE FOUR CLANS:
FIERCE AND HONORABLE THUNDERCLAN...
SLEEK AND POWERFUL RIVERCLAN...
...WISE AND SWIFT WINDCLAN...
...AND PROUD, CRUEL SHADOWCLAN.

GRAYPAW.
THAT'S ENOUGH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING SO CLOSE TO TWOLEGPLACE?
AND WHO...
...IS THIS?
H-HE'S JUST A TWOLEG PET, BLUESTAR!
HEY--
PAT PAT
TINK!
HE'S NOT AN ENEMY WARRIOR, HE'S JUST A LITTLE KITTYPET!

SHOW SOME RESPECT!
but--!
THAT'S BLUESTAR, LEADER OF THUNDERCLAN, AND LIONHEART, MY MENTOR!
HISS!!!
PAF!
THANK YOU, GRAYPAW.

I HAVE PATROLLED THIS BORDER AND SEEN YOU LOOKING OUT AT THE FOREST MANY TIMES NOW.
I WONDERED WHEN YOU WOULD FINALLY DARE TO SET PAW OUT HERE.

YOU USED YOUR WITS TO DEFEND YOURSELF AND REACTED BRAVELY.
WELL DONE.
BLUESTAR, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT...
THIS IS STILL A KITTYPET!
GO HOME, AND STOP WANDERING AROUND WHERE YOU'RE NOT WELCOME!
BUT!
I JUST WANTED A MOUSE!
THERE MUST BE ENOUGH TO SPARE JUST ONE--
THERE IS NEVER ENOUGH!

HOW DARE YOU HUNT FOR SPORT WHERE WE STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE?!

...

I SEE. I APOLOGIZE.
I WON'T HUNT HERE AGAIN.

PERHAPS YOU MIGHT.
WHAT IS YOUR NAME, KITTYPET?
TNK!

I'M CALLED *RUSTY.*
WELL, RUSTY...
...WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US IN *THUNDERCLAN?*

YOU WOULD TRAIN TO BECOME A WARRIOR, LIKE *GRAYPAW.*
BUT--

BLUESTAR!
KITTYPETS CAN'T BE *WARRIORS!*
I'M ONLY OFFERING HIM A CHANCE, AND A CHOICE.

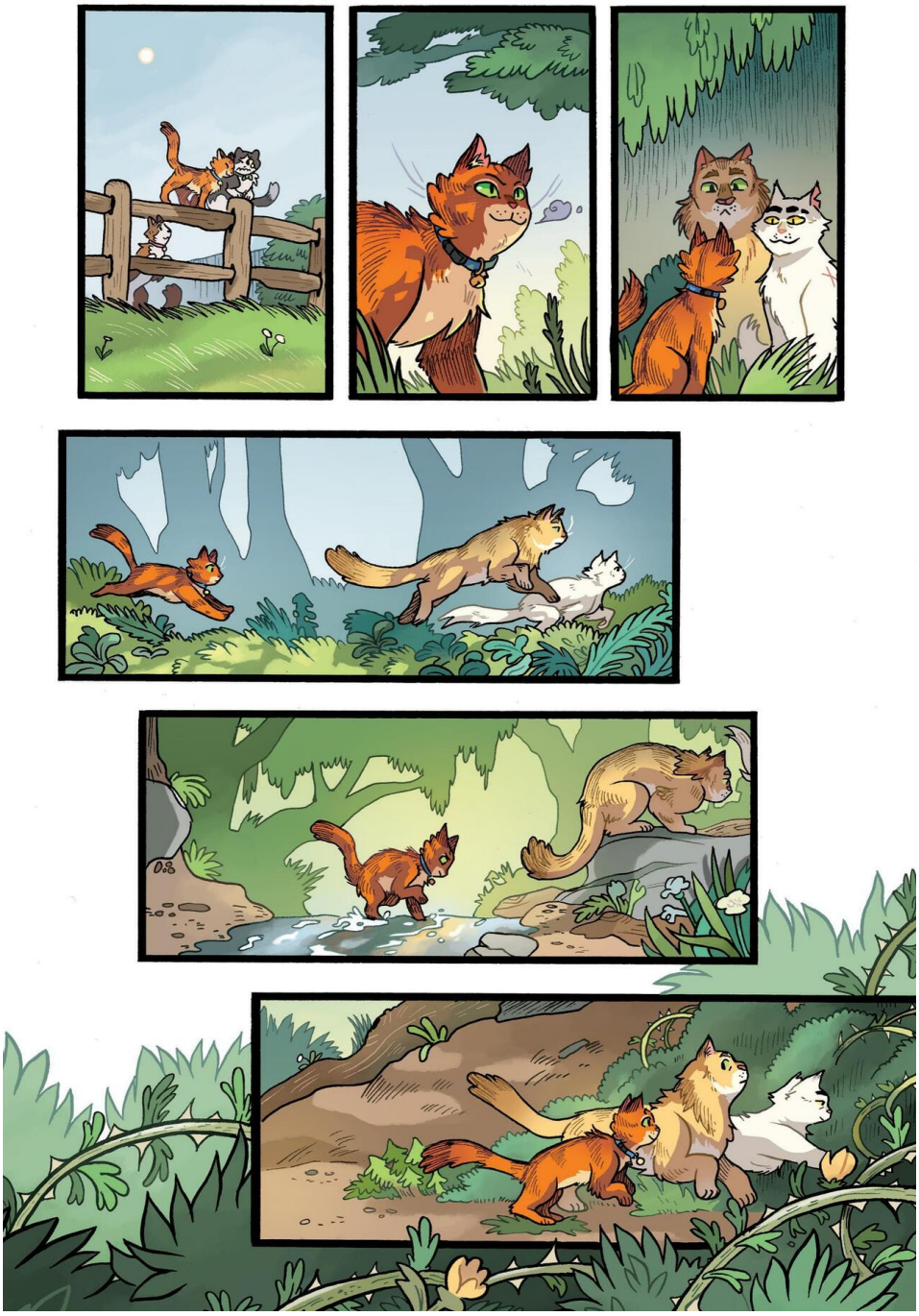
BLUESTAR, ARE YOU *SURE*--
I DO NOT MAKE THIS OFFER LIGHTLY, RUSTY.
PFF

THUNDERCLAN *NEEDS* MORE WARRIORS.

YOU CANNOT LIVE WITH A PAW IN BOTH WORLDS.
IF YOU WISH TO JOIN US, YOU WILL HAVE TO LEAVE THE EASY LIFE YOU HAVE NOW.
THE FOREST IS CRUEL AND DANGEROUS, AND THE CLAN DEMANDS GREAT LOYALTY AND HARD WORK.
BUT IN RETURN...
...THE STRENGTH AND FELLOWSHIP OF THUNDERCLAN WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU, EVEN WHEN YOU HUNT ALONE.
YOU WILL LIVE WITH US.
YOU WILL LEARN OUR WAY OF LIFE.
YOU WILL TRAIN TO BECOME...
...A WARRIOR.

GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT.
LIONHEART WILL RETURN AT SUNHIGH TOMORROW FOR YOUR ANSWER.
SO THOSE...
...ARE WARRIORS.
LIVING WILD IN THE WOODS, HUNTING AND FIGHTING TOGETHER...
...SO POWERFUL, AND FREE!
COULD A CAT LIKE ME EVER BE LIKE THEM?
AND EVEN IF I COULD...

...CAN I REALLY LEAVE MY OLD LIFE BEHIND?
RUSTY
BUT IN MY HEART...
... I KNEW MY ANSWER THE MOMENT I STEPPED INTO THOSE WOODS.



THIS IS THE THUNDERCLAN CAMP.
HIGHROCK
MEDICINE CAT'S DEN
THE NURSERY
BLUESTAR'S DEN
THE ELDERS' DEN
THE WARRIORS' DEN
THE FRESHKILL PILE
THE APPRENTICES' DEN
GORSE TUNNEL

HE CAME...
LIONHEART WAS *SURE* HE WOULDN'T.
I THINK HE KEPT UP PRETTY WELL FOR A KITTYPET, THOUGH!
I WAS JUST MANAGING MY *EXPECTATIONS*, WHITESTORM.
LET ALL CATS OLD ENOUGH TO CATCH THEIR OWN PREY...
GATHER BENEATH THE HIGHROCK FOR A CLAN MEETING!
I'M SURE YOU ARE ALL AWARE OF HOW DESPERATELY THUNDERCLAN NEEDS NEW WARRIORS.
HERE I HAVE FOUND A NEWCOMER WILLING TO TRAIN AS AN APPRENTICE.

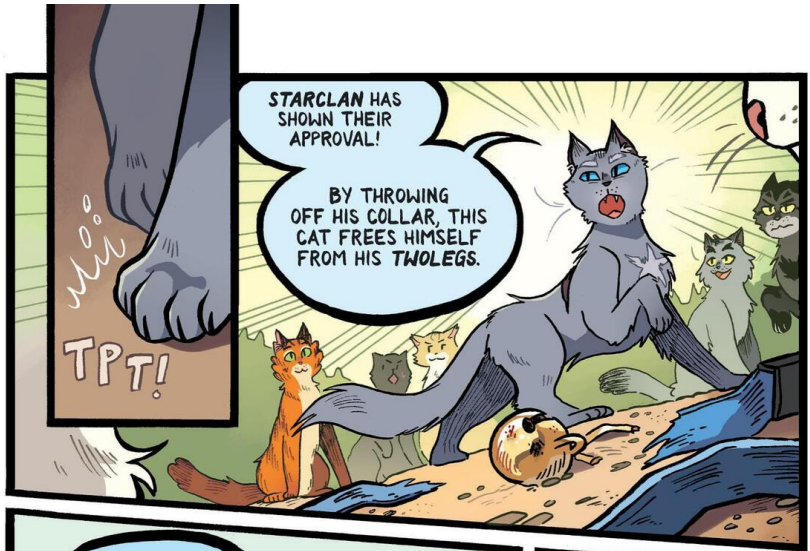
WHERE DOES HE COME FROM?
WHO IS HE?
I DON'T RECOGNIZE THAT CLAN SCENT!
LOOK AT HIS COLLAR!
THAT'S NO CLAN CAT! THAT'S A KITTYPET!
HE'D JUST BE ANOTHER SOFT MOUTH TO FEED.
HE'D NEVER BE ABLE TO DEFEND THUNDERCLAN LIKE A WILD-BORN CAT!
IF YOUR TWOLEG STENCH DOESN'T GIVE US AWAY TO EVERY ENEMY WARRIOR IN THE TERRITORIES...
THAT LITTLE BELL COLLAR WILL!
RUSTY.
TINK!

LONGTAIL SMELLS YOUR FEAR.
WE ALL DO.
THIS IS A CHALLENGE.
PROVE TO ALL OF THUNDERCLAN...
THAT YOU WON'T BACK DOWN!

RRROWR!!!

YOWL!
TNK
TNK
HISSS!!
TNK
TINK!
TNK!
TINK

SNAP!
ENOUGH.

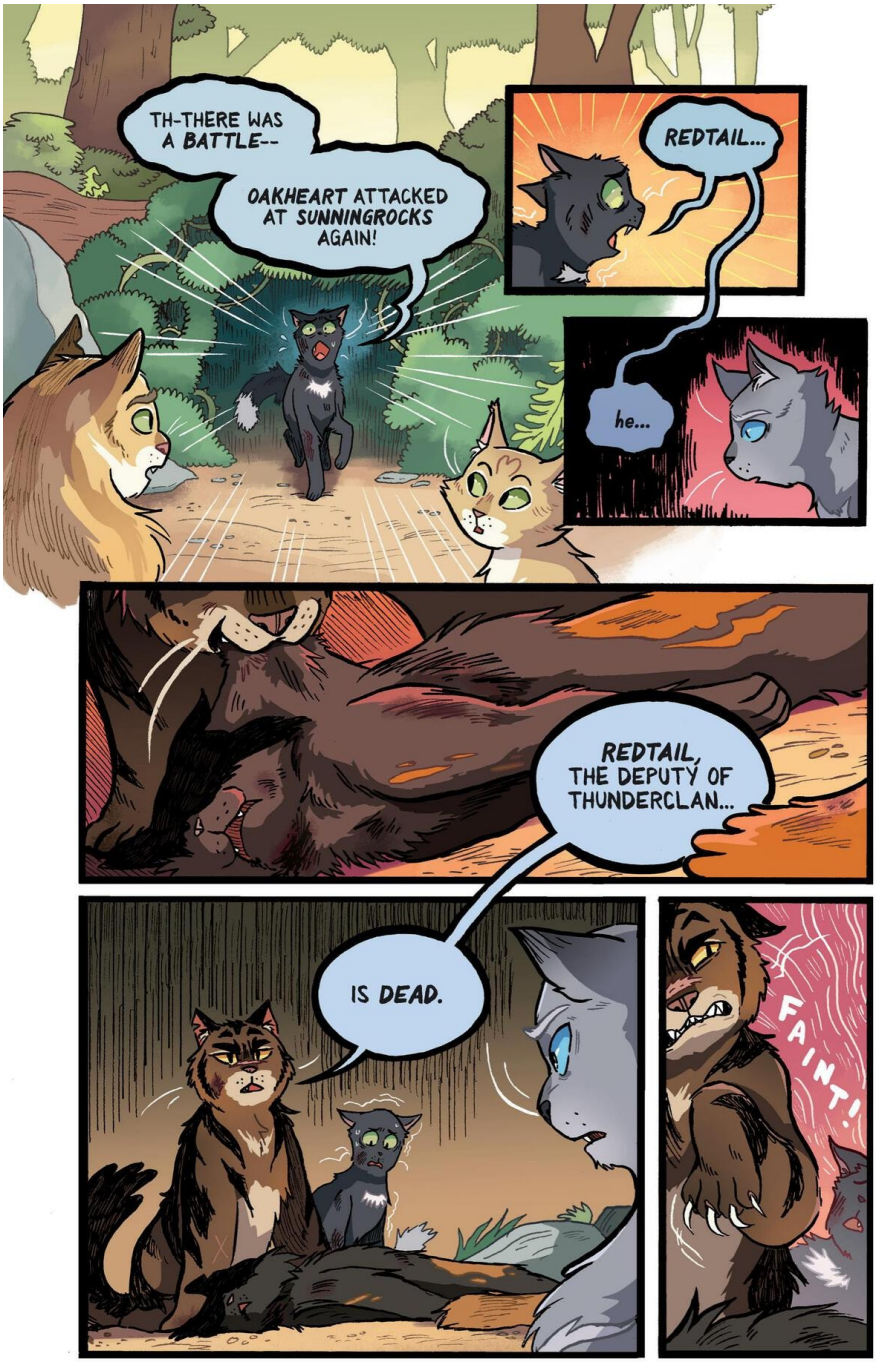

TPT!
STARCLAN HAS SHOWN THEIR APPROVAL!
BY THROWING OFF HIS COLLAR, THIS CAT FREES HIMSELF FROM HIS TWOLEGS.

YOU FIGHT LIKE A FLASH OF FIRE, YOUNG ONE.

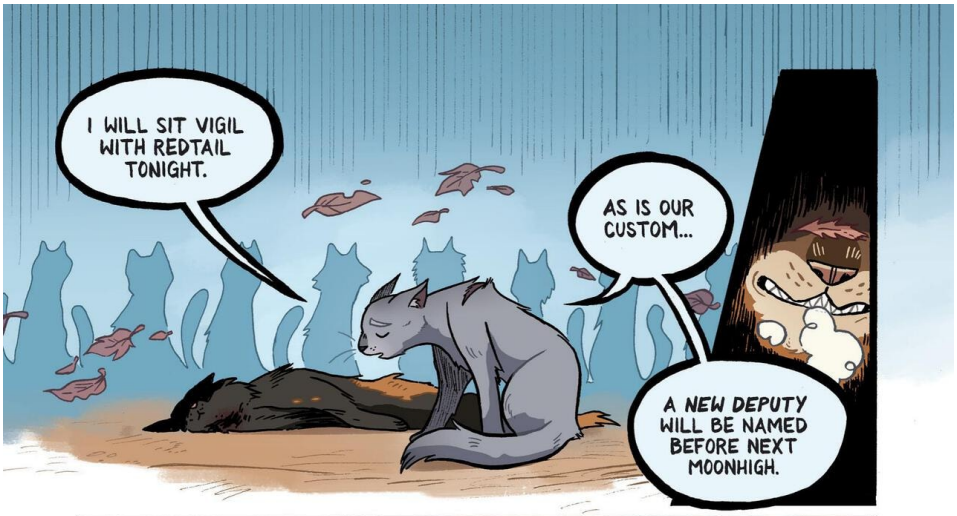
AND NOW, FROM THIS DAY FORWARD...

YOU SHALL BE KNOWN AS FIREPAW!
FIREPAW!
FIREPA
FIREPAW!
FIREPAW!
AN APPRENTICE OF THUNDERCLAN!

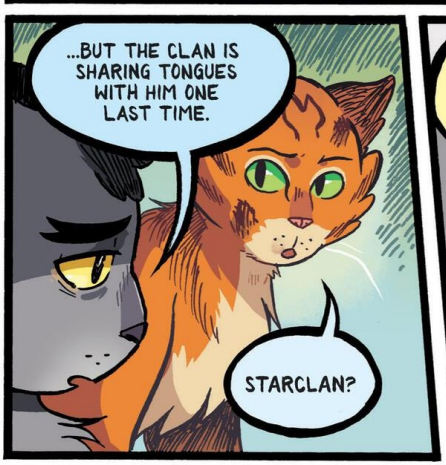
huff huff
GASP!
B-BLUESTAR...!


TH-THERE WAS A BATTLE--
OAKHEART ATTACKED AT SUNNINGROCKS AGAIN!
REDTAIL...
he...
REDTAIL, THE DEPUTY OF THUNDERCLAN...
IS DEAD.
FAINT!

REDTAIL!!
TIGERCLAW, HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
HE DIED WITH HONOR, STRUCK DOWN IN BATTLE.
OAKHEART IS THE DEPUTY OF RIVERCLAN. HE'S A FEARSOME WARRIOR.
I COULDN'T SAVE REDTAIL, BUT I WAS ABLE TO AVENGE HIM...
I TOOK OAKHEART'S LIFE AS HE GLOATED OVER THE VICTORY.
HIS DEATH WASN'T IN VAIN, BLUESTAR.
RIVERCLAN WON'T BE COMING BACK TO SUNNINGROCKS ANYTIME SOON.
I SEE.
WELL FOUGHT, TIGERCLAW.


I WILL SIT VIGIL WITH REDTAIL TONIGHT.
AS IS OUR CUSTOM...
A NEW DEPUTY WILL BE NAMED BEFORE NEXT MOONHIGH.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
HIS SPIRIT MAY HAVE GONE TO STARCLAN...


...BUT THE CLAN IS SHARING TONGUES WITH HIM ONE LAST TIME.
STARCLAN?

THEY'RE OUR ANCESTORS WHO WATCH OVER ALL CLAN CATS.
YOU CAN SEE THEM UP IN SILVERPELT AS STARS AT NIGHT.

AFTER HONORABLE WARRIORS DIE, THEY JOIN THE STARS.
EACH ONE IS A STARCLAN WARRIOR WHO ONCE FOUGHT ALONGSIDE US, NOW WATCHING US FROM ABOVE.
REDTAIL JOINS THEM TONIGHT.
WELL, SPOTTEDLEAF?
WILL RAVENPAW RECOVER, OR WAS ALL MY TRAINING HIM UP WASTED?

I SAID, WILL HE LIVE?!
MLEM!
OF COURSE. RAVENPAW JUST NEEDS SOME REST.

NOT SO FAST, TIGERCLAW.
WE DON'T WANT TO REOPEN HIS WOUNDS.
LEAVE HIM ALONE.

EVEN YOU KNOW BETTER THAN TO ARGUE WITH A MEDICINE CAT.
YES, SPOTTEDLEAF...

WHO'S THIS?
FIREPAW, THE NEW APPRENTICE!

HE SMELLS LIKE A KITTYPET.
I USED TO BE ONE...

...BUT NOW I'M TRAINING TO BE A WARRIOR!
HM.

WELL, FIREPAW, I WILL WATCH YOUR PROGRESS WITH INTEREST.

WHOA!
HE WAS SO BIG!
DO YOU THINK HE LIKES ME?
TIGERCLAW? I DON'T THINK HE LIKES ANY APPRENTICES.

FIREPAW...
Y'KNOW, HE IS PROBABLY GOING TO BE THE NEXT DEPUTY, THOUGH.
SMALLEAR THINKS SO, AND HE'S OLDER AND WISER THAN ANY CAT!
Wow, really?
COULD HE BE...?
LET ALL CATS OLD ENOUGH TO CATCH THEIR OWN PREY GATHER FOR A CLAN MEETING!

THE TIME HAS COME TO *APPOINT A NEW DEPUTY.*
FIRST, WE MUST GIVE THANKS FOR THE LIFE OF *REDTAIL.*
HE SITS WITH HIS FELLOW WARRIORS IN *STARCLAN* NOW.
I NAME THIS *NEW DEPUTY* SO THAT HIS SPIRIT CAN HEAR AND *APPROVE* MY CHOICE.
THE *NEW DEPUTY* OF THUNDERCLAN WILL BE...
LIONHEART.

LIONHEART!
LIONHEART!
LIONHEART!
LIONHEART!
LIONHEART!

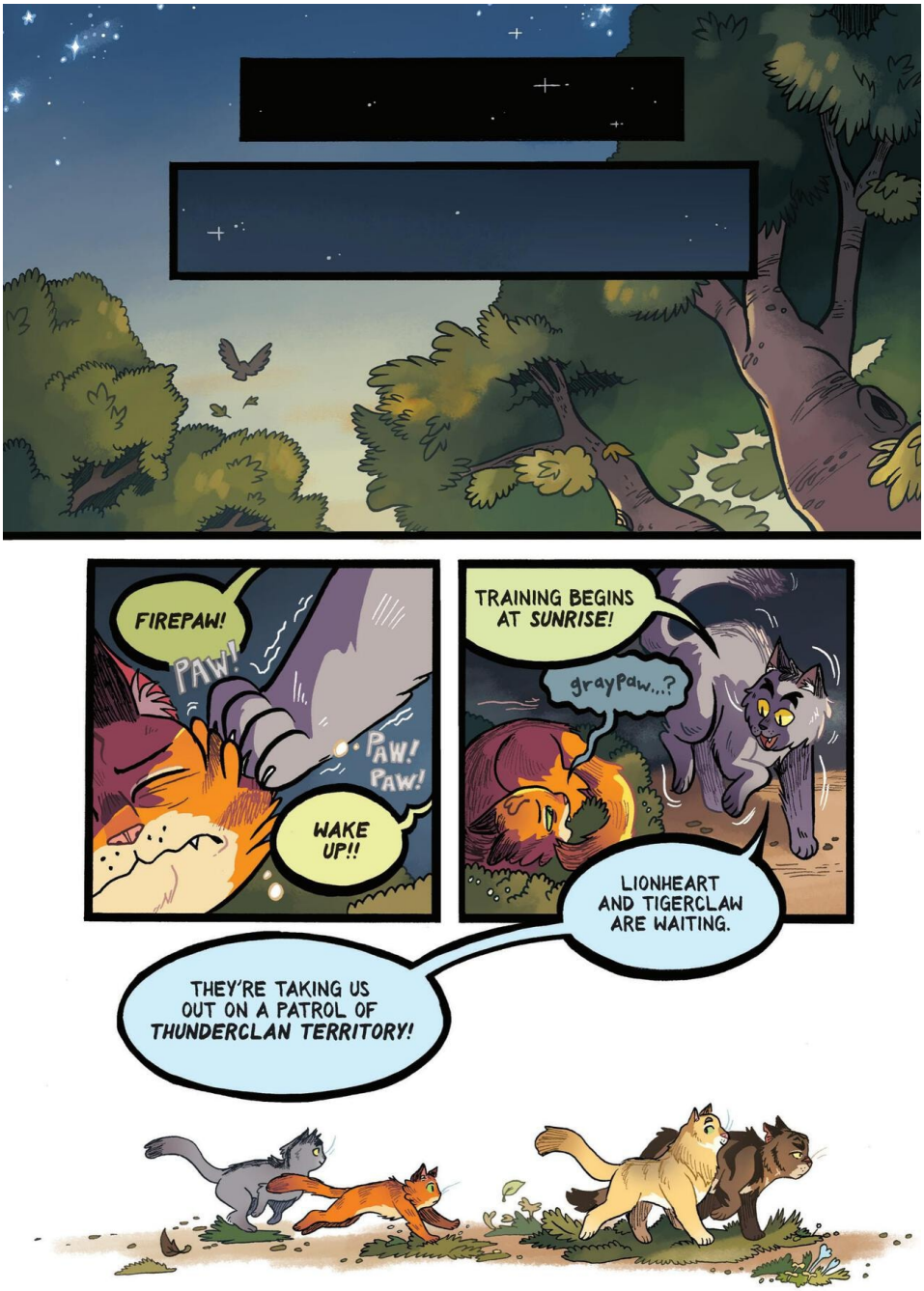
CONGRATULATIONS!

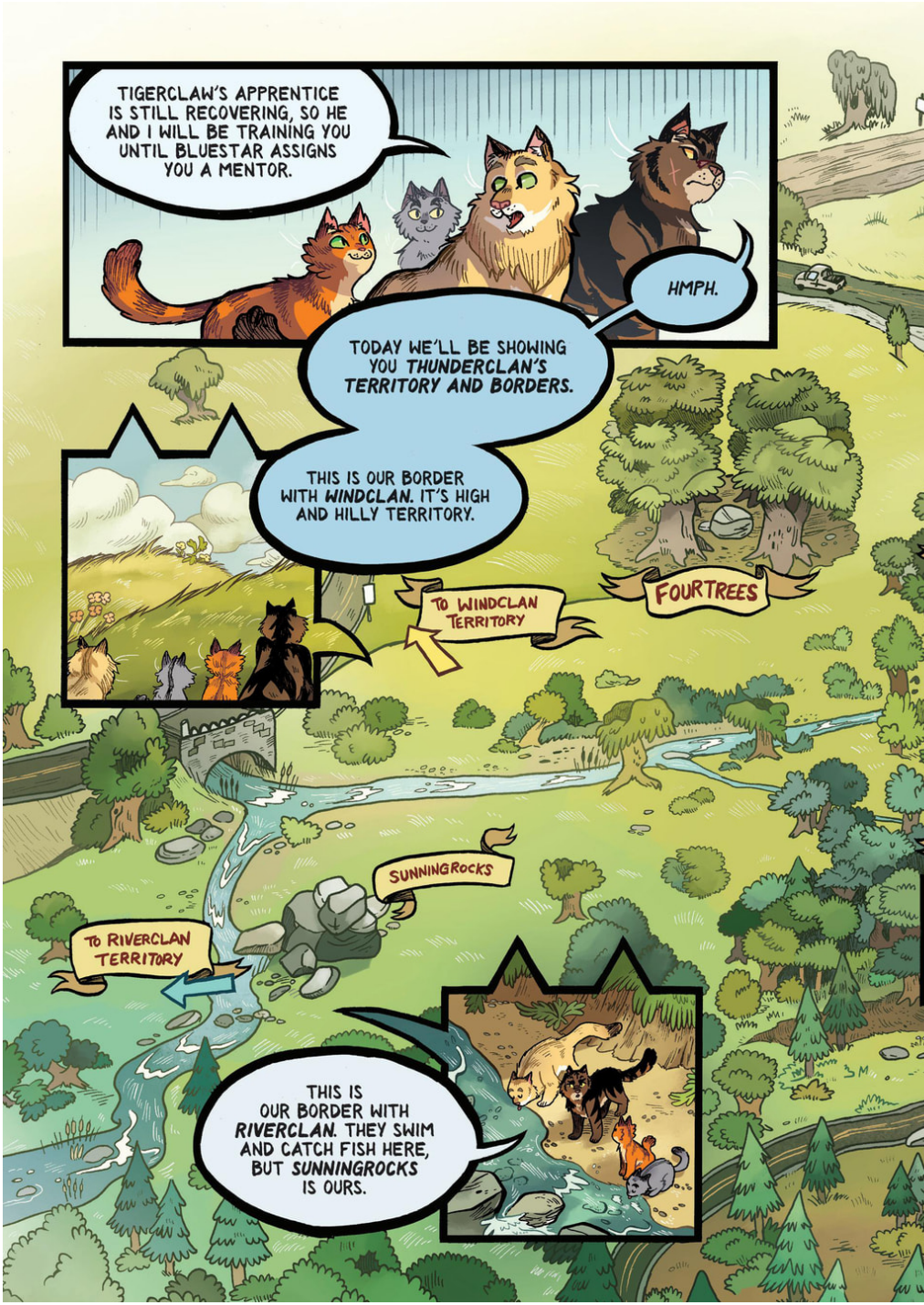
REDTAIL WAS ALSO MENTOR TO DUSTPAW.
I HAVE DECIDED...

DARKSTRIPE, YOU HAD A FINE MENTOR IN TIGERCLAW.
YAY, DARKSTRIPE!
I EXPECT YOU TO PASS THAT EXCELLENT TRAINING ONTO YOUNG DUSTPAW, AS HIS NEW MENTOR.

C'MON, I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE THE APPRENTICES SLEEP.

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO SLEEP WITH THAT KITTYPET STENCH IN HERE?!
BLEHHH!!
THAT'S SANDPAW. DON'T LISTEN TO HER.
FEELING ANY BETTER, RAVENPAW?
NOD NOD
HERE, FIREPAW...
THERE'S SPACE NEXT TO ME!
KNEAD KNEAD
YAWN!


FIREPAW!
PAW!
PAW! PAW!
WAKE UP!!
TRAINING BEGINS AT SUNRISE!
graypaw...?
LIONHEART AND TIGERCLAW ARE WAITING.
THEY'RE TAKING US OUT ON A PATROL OF THUNDERCLAN TERRITORY!


TIGERCLAW'S APPRENTICE IS STILL RECOVERING, SO HE AND I WILL BE TRAINING YOU UNTIL BLUESTAR ASSIGNS YOU A MENTOR.
HMPH.
TODAY WE'LL BE SHOWING YOU THUNDERCLAN'S TERRITORY AND BORDERS.
THIS IS OUR BORDER WITH WINDCLAN. IT'S HIGH AND HILLY TERRITORY.
TO WINDCLAN TERRITORY
FOURTREES
SUNNINGROCKS
TO RIVERCLAN TERRITORY
THIS IS OUR BORDER WITH RIVERCLAN. THEY SWIM AND CATCH FISH HERE, BUT SUNNINGROCKS IS OURS.

AND THIS...
IS FOURTREES, WHERE ALL FOUR CLAN TERRITORIES INTERSECT.
FOUR GREAT OAKS, ONE FOR EACH CLAN.
WOW...
WE WARRIORS DRAW STRENGTH FROM OUR CLAN LOYALTIES AND RIVALRIES.
THEY MAKE US WHO WE ARE.
BUT EVERY FULL MOON...
IT IS TRADITION FOR THE CLANS TO GATHER IN PEACE TO SHARE NEWS AND STORIES.
WAIT, THAT MEANS THERE'S ONE TONIGHT, RIGHT?
FAST LEARNER!
ARE FIREPAW AND I GOING THIS TIME?
NO.

HEY, KITTYPET!
ENJOY THE FOOD THAT WE CAUGHT.
YOU MIGHT EVEN LEARN TO CATCH YOUR OWN, ONE DAY!
SANDPAW. DUSTPAW.
PATROLLING AND KEEPING OUR TERRITORY SAFE IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS HUNTING.
uh-huh.
LONGTAIL WAS RIGHT.
HE'S JUST A SOFT LITTLE MOUTH TO FEED.
C'MON FIREPAW.
LET'S GO EAT WITH RAVENPAW.

TODAY WE'LL BE WORKING ON YOUR HUNTING STALKS.
NOW, A RABBIT WILL SMELL YOU COMING, BUT A MOUSE WILL HEAR AND FEEL YOU FIRST...
SO THAT MEANS...?
STEP LIGHTLY?
VERY GOOD, FIREPAW!
LIKE THIS, SEE?
nngh!
PATHETIC.
LOPSIDED AND WHIMPERING OVER YOUR INJURIES.
YOU'RE WORSE AT THIS THAN THE KITTYPET.
AND I'M THE MOST LOPSIDED OF ALL!
...MAYBE WE SHOULD MOVE ON TO THE PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT.

I WANT EACH OF YOU TO GO CATCH AND BRING BACK A PIECE OF PREY.
CONCENTRATE, FIREPAW!
SNIFF
SNIFF
YOU'RE A CLAN CAT NOW!
YOU CAN DO THIS!
JUST LIKE LIONHEART SAID...

WEIGHT ON MY HAUNCHES...
...PAWSTEPS LIGHT...
...CAREFUL...
...EYES UNBLINKING...
...FOCUSED...
...YES!!

I DID IT.
SQUE--
CRNCH!
I CAUGHT MY FIRST PREY...
...AS A THUNDERCLAN CAT!

Ahhhh

HOLD ON, FIREPAW!

WARRIORS CANNOT EAT UNTIL THE REST OF THE CLAN IS FED.
IT'S AGAINST THE WARRIOR CODE.
GRMMBLL

YOU'VE DONE WELL TODAY, THOUGH.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR CATCH BACK TO THE ELDERS?

DON'T BE SHY!
SHARE A LITTLE WITH US!

AFTER ALL, WE CAN'T HAVE OUR GROWING APPRENTICE WARRIORS GOING HUNGRY...
especially when there's so few of them--
OH, DON'T BE SO GRIM, HALFTAIL!

GO AHEAD!

CHOMP!

CATCHING AND EATING MY OWN PREY...
...TRULY, THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A WARRIOR!

LEAF-BARE WAS HARD THIS YEAR, BUT IT WAS HARD ON ALL OF THE CLANS.
AND, DON'T FORGET, FROSTFUR IS EXPECTING KITS, TOO!
MUNCH MUNCH
CHOMP

TASTY, HUH?
THEY'LL MAKE WARRIORS OF YOU, YET!

THE NEXT TWO MOONS PASS BY IN A FLASH.
GRAYPAW, RAVENPAW, AND I TRAIN HARD TOGETHER TO LEARN THE WAYS OF THE FOREST AND THE WARRIOR CODE.
LIFE IN THE WOODS ISN'T EASY...

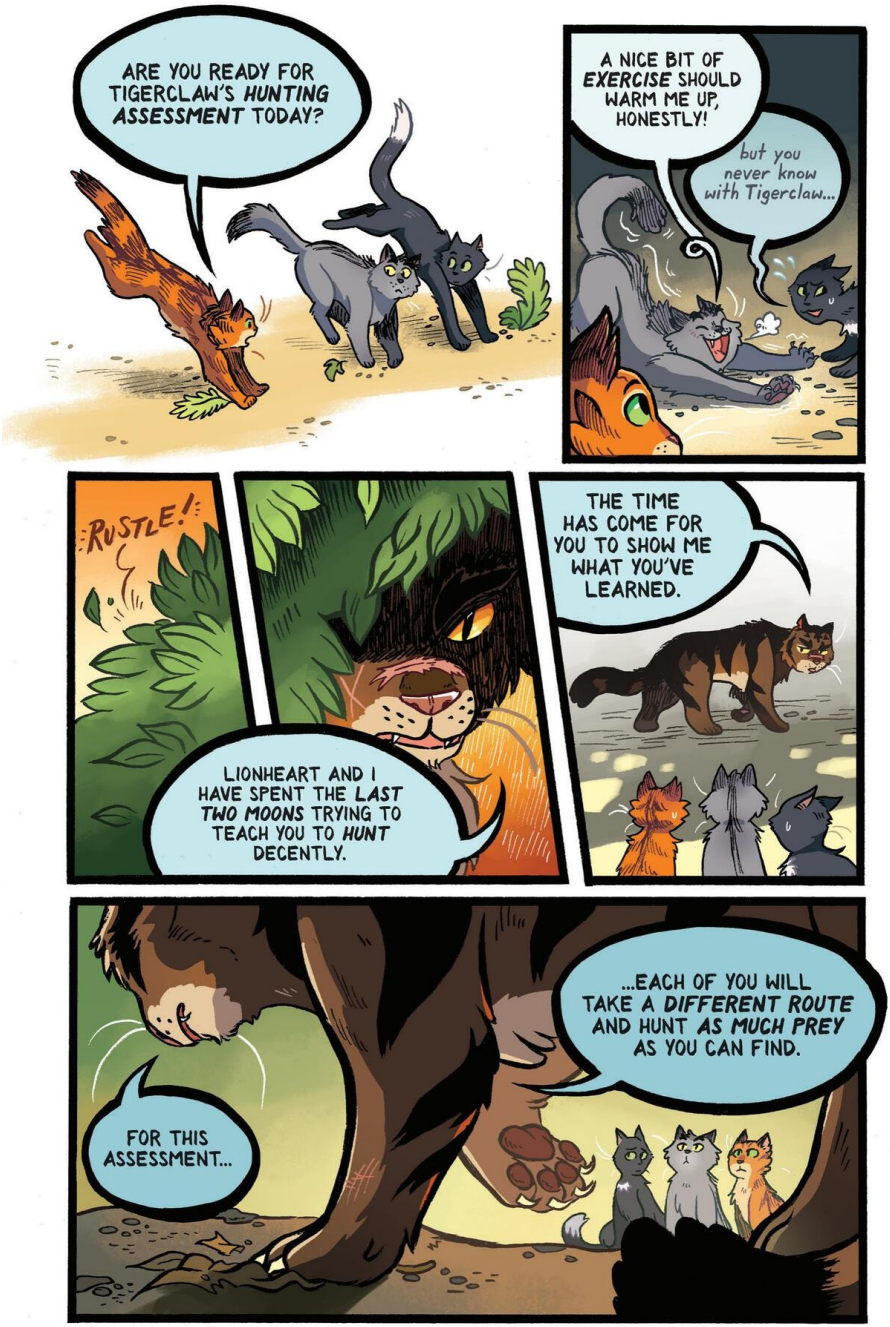
SPOTTEDLEAF?

LIONHEART SENT ME TO GATHER THESE HERBS FOR YOU!

THANK YOU.
I hope they're the right ones...

FIREPAW, RIGHT?
SO, HAS BLUESTAR ASSIGNED YOU A MENTOR YET?

NOT YET.
LIONHEART AND TIGERCLAW ARE BOTH TRAINING ME UNTIL SHE DECIDES.
I SEE...
THAT'S A LOT OF PRESSURE!
IT'S A BIG DESTINY TO LIVE UP TO...
BUT I THINK YOU'LL MAKE A FINE WARRIOR.
MAY STARCLAN LIGHT YOUR PATH, LITTLE FLAME!


ARE YOU READY FOR TIGERCLAW'S *HUNTING ASSESSMENT* TODAY?
A NICE BIT OF *EXERCISE* SHOULD WARM ME UP, HONESTLY!
but you never know with Tigerclaw...
RUSTLE!
LIONHEART AND I HAVE SPENT THE *LAST TWO MOONS* TRYING TO TEACH YOU TO *HUNT* DECENTLY.
THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED.
FOR THIS ASSESSMENT...
...EACH OF YOU WILL TAKE A *DIFFERENT ROUTE* AND HUNT *AS MUCH PREY* AS YOU CAN FIND.

RAVENPAW, YOU WILL FOLLOW THE TRAIL PAST THE GREAT SYCAMORE TO SNAKEROCKS.
THAT SHOULD BE EASY ENOUGH FOR YOUR PITIFUL SKILLS.
GRAYPAW, THE ROUTE ALONG THE STREAM.
hooray, wet paws for me!
AND YOU, FIREPAW...
...WILL GO THROUGH TALLPINES TO THE TWOLEGPLACE WOODS.
AND REMEMBER...
I WILL BE WATCHING ALL OF YOU.

SNAKEROCKS, EASY?!
THERE'S NO WAY ANY BIRDS OR MICE ARE GOING TO BE HANGING AROUND THERE.

PLUS HE'LL HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR ADDERS...
WELL, AT LEAST RAVENPAW'S ALWAYS QUICK ON HIS PAWS!

GOOD LUCK, FIREPAW!
SEE YOU BACK AT CAMP!

THERE!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

CRUNCH!

I'D BETTER KEEP GOING.

WAIT.
THAT SMELL...

THIS IS...
...MY OLD TWOLEG NEST.
TINK!
TINK!
RUSTY?!
OH, RUSTY! IT IS YOU!

I THOUGHT T'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!
PRINCESS...
SMUDGE AND I WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
DO YOU HAVE NEW HOUSEFOLK?
OH, YOU MUST, IF YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
ALTHOUGH, CLEARLY THEY'RE NOT FEEDING YOU ENOUGH...
WHEN DID MY BROTHER GET SO SCRAWNY...?
...

I'M CALLED FIREPAW NOW--
AND I FEED MYSELF.
I'M HUNTING FOR THE CLAN RIGHT NOW, SEE?
WOW.WW!

YOU MEAN YOU'VE BEEN LIVING WITH THE WILDCATS THIS WHOLE TIME?!

WELL, WHAT'S IT LIKE?
LIVING WILD?

LIVING WILD...
I...

I KNOW WHO I AM, NOW.
IN THUNDERCLAN, I AM THE CAT THAT I ALWAYS DREAMED OF BEING.

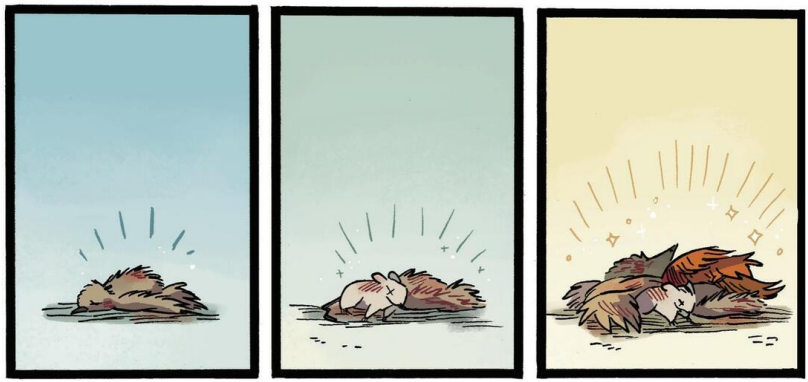
I SEE.

I'M HAPPY FOR YOU, RUSTY--
FIREPAW.
PRRR
PURR

ANYWAY, IT'S DINNER TIME!
GOTTA GO!

IT'S WET FOOD NIGHT!
I SIMPLY CAN'T MISS "QUEEN KITTY CHICKEN ENTREE™"!
TINK!
TINK!
TINK!

GOODBYE, FIREPAW!



WOW! NICE CATCH, FIREPAW!
ALL I GOT WAS A COUPLE OF SQUIRRELS.
mmph...?
RAVENPAW? NO, HE'S NOT BACK YET. I HOPE HE DIDN'T GET BITTEN...

WHOA!!!

GREAT JOB, RAVENPAW!
YOU CAUGHT THIS?!

APPRENTICES.

...
NOD
FIREPAW.
BLUESTAR WANTS TO SEE YOU.
NOW.
TIGERCLAW SAW YOU MEET WITH A STRANGE KITTYPET.
HE SAID YOU SHARED TONGUES WITH HER.
...IS THIS TRUE?
BLUESTAR, I ...

THAT WAS MY SISTER. WE WERE KITTENS TOGETHER.
I HADN'T SEEN HER SINCE...
...SINCE I WAS A KITTYPET.
DO YOU MISS YOUR OLD LIFE, FIREPAW?
NO!
DO YOU WISH TO LEAVE THE CLAN?
OF COURSE NOT! THIS IS MY HOME NOW!
I NEED MORE THAN THAT, FIREPAW. I NEED TO BE ABLE TO TRUST YOUR LOYALTY.
SHADOWCLAN MAY BE PLANNING AN ATTACK SOON.
THUNDERCLAN HAS NO ROOM FOR ANY CAT WHO ISN'T SURE IF THEIR HEART LIES IN THE PAST OR THE PRESENT.

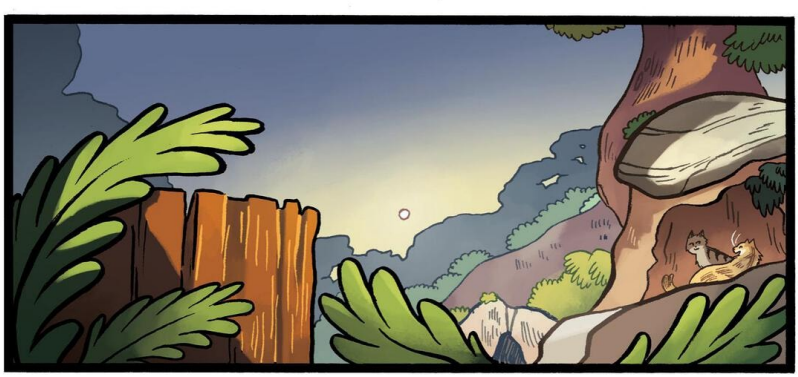
...
WHEN I SAW PRINCESS TODAY
--MY KITTYPET SISTER--
I SAW WHAT MY LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE WITH TWOLEGS.
I WOULD BE SAFE AND WELL-FED, BUT MY LIFE WOULD BE SOFT.
SMALL AND UNREWARDING.
LONELY.
I WAS HAPPY I DIDN'T STAY.
I WAS PROUD THAT I HAD LEFT THAT LIFE BEHIND.

BLUESTAR.
I'M CERTAIN I COULD NEVER BE HAPPY AS A KITTYPET.
MY HEART IS HERE, WITH THUNDERCLAN.
...VERY WELL.
blink!
I BELIEVE YOU.

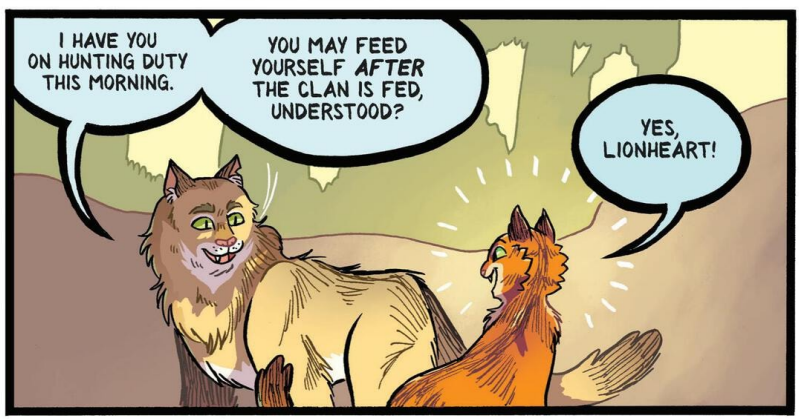
TIGERCLAW SAID YOU DID WELL ON THE HUNTING ASSESSMENT, BY THE WAY.

I EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM YOU, FIREPAW.

PART TWO:
YELLOWFANG



FIREPAW!
MYAAAA!!


I HAVE YOU ON HUNTING DUTY THIS MORNING.
YOU MAY FEED YOURSELF *AFTER* THE CLAN IS FED, UNDERSTOOD?
YES, LIONHEART!

OH, AND ONE MORE THING...
SHADOWCLAN WARRIORS HAVE BEEN SCENTED AT THE *THUNDERPATH BORDER* LATELY.
IF YOUR HUNT TAKES YOU THERE, BE CAREFUL AND KEEP YOUR EARS OPEN.
NOD.

GRUMBLL!

BETRAYED BY MY OWN STOMACH.
HUFF!
RROWR!!

A PUNY APPRENTICE!
SLAM!!
EASY PREY FOR YELLOWFANG!
MROW!
NOT SUCH EASY PREY, HUH?
CRASH!
COUGH!
HEH...
HHHHHHH

NOT BAD.
BUT YOU'LL NEED TO DO A LOT BETTER, KITTY.

I CAN'T PLACE HER SCENT.
IS THIS ONE OF THE SHADOWCLAN WARRIORS LIONHEART MENTIONED?

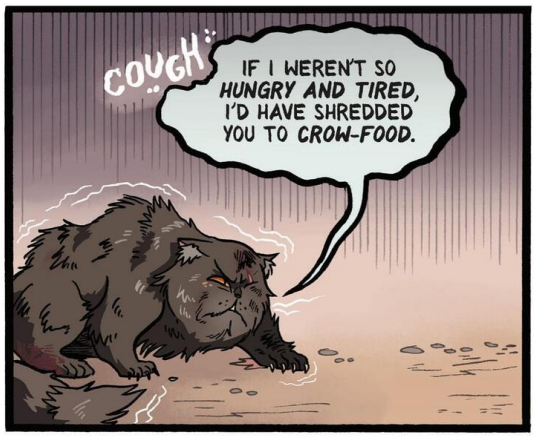
HISSSS!!

THIS IS THUNDERCLAN TERRITORY!
MOVE ON!
SAYS WHO?
I'LL HUNT AS I PLEASE AND LEAVE WHEN T WANT.

OR MAYBE I'LL JUST STAY A WHILE...
ENOUGH!!

SNAP!
REE-OW!!

RRREEOW-OW-OW!!!
CHOMP!
HAD ENOUGH?
PANT PANT


COUGH
IF I WEREN'T SO HUNGRY AND TIRED, I'D HAVE SHREDDED YOU TO CROW-FOOD.

WELL, THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?

FINISH ME OFF.

h-heh...
...THERE'S NO FIGHT IN ME LEFT TO STOP YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
BE A WARRIOR AND PUT ME OUT OF MY MISERY.

...WAIT HERE.
HERE.
PAFF!
WELL, WELL, KITTY!
I THOUGHT YOU'D RUN OFF TO GET YOUR WARRIOR FRIENDS.
LOOK, IF YOU DON'T WANT IT--
OH NO, I DO.

GRMBL GRMBL
HOMF!
IT'S JUST SCRAPS LEFT OVER...
GRMBL
GRMBLLL
SLURP!
CHOMP!
GRMBL
...SURELY IT WOULDN'T BE AGAINST THE CODE TO JUST EAT A LITTLE...

FIRST FRESH-KILL I'VE HAD FOR DAYS!

RUSTLE!

WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
HEY, FIREPAW.

AN ENEMY CAT, AND BOTH OF YOU RECENTLY FED, BY THE SMELL OF IT.
BLUESTAR! I CAN EXPLAIN!

SHE WAS WEAK, AND STARVING...
...BUT YOU?
I ASSUME YOU HAD A VERY GOOD REASON FOR BREAKING THE WARRIOR CODE YOURSELF...

AND FOR WHAT? THIS MISERABLE BAG OF BONES?
KEEP YOUR CLAWS IN, DARKSTRIPE.

IF MY EYES DO NOT DECEIVE ME, THIS IS NO ORDINARY OUTCAST.
THAT IS YELLOWFANG, THE MEDICINE CAT OF SHADOWCLAN.

HISS!!
I WAS THE SHADOWCLAN MEDICINE CAT.
NOW I CHOOSE TO TRAVEL ALONE.

...
I SEE.

WE'LL DECIDE WHAT TO DO ABOUT BOTH OF YOU BACK AT *CAMP*.
CAN YOU WALK, YELLOWFANG?
I'VE STILL GOT THREE GOOD LEGS LEFT, YES.
GOOD.

BLUESTAR, ARE YOU *SERIOUSLY* LEADING AN *ENEMY WARRIOR* RIGHT INTO THUNDERCLAN CAMP?!
SHE'LL SPREAD OUR SECRETS TO *EVERY CAT IN SHADOWCLAN!*

YELLOWFANG SAYS SHE'S A LONER NOW.
...AND YOU *BELIEVE* HER?!

THINK OF IT *THIS WAY*, TIGERCLAW...
YOU'RE FOCUSED ON HER SHARING THUNDERCLAN SECRETS WITH SHADOWCLAN...

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED HOW MANY OF *SHADOWCLAN'S SECRETS* SHE MIGHT SHARE WITH *US?*

DO YOU THINK BLUESTAR WILL KICK ME OUT?
I DON'T WANT TO BE A LONER!
I DON'T THINK SO. BLUESTAR IS VERY FAIR.
PLUS, YOU CAPTURED AN IMPORTANT SHADOWCLAN PRISONER!
I DON'T THINK SHE'LL BE TOO MAD ABOUT YOU FEEDING THE OLD MANGEBAG.
BUT WHY DID I HAVE TO EAT THAT RABBIT!
WELL, THAT WAS MOUSE-BRAINED OF YOU.
YOU REALLY BROKE THE WARRIOR CODE THERE, BUT NO CAT IS PERFECT.
LET ALL CATS OLD ENOUGH TO CATCH THEIR OWN PREY GATHER BENEATH THE HIGHROCK FOR A CLAN MEETING!

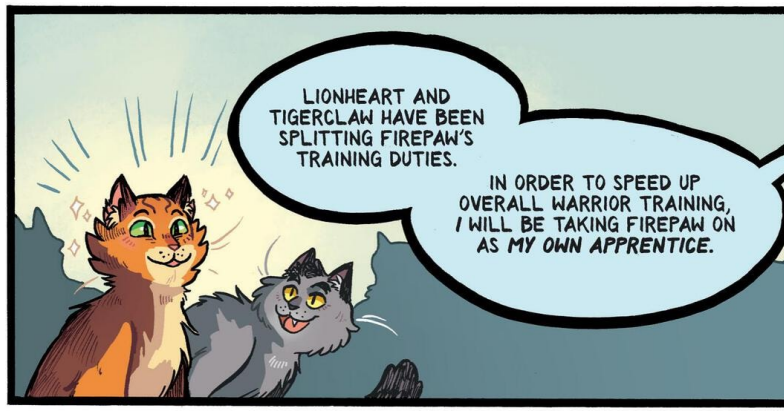
I'M SURE YOU HAVE ALL HEARD ABOUT THE *PRISONER* WE BROUGHT BACK WITH US TODAY.
YELLOWFANG WILL BE ALLOWED TO STAY HERE UNTIL HER STRENGTH RETURNS, AND WILL BE TREATED WITH *RESPECT AND COURTESY.*

DO YOU EXPECT US TO CARE FOR THIS *SHADOWCLAN CAT?!*
WE ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH MOUTHS TO FEED AS IT IS!

I TOLD YOU, I AM NO LONGER A SHADOWCLAN CAT!!!

AND I DON'T NEED TO BE CARED FOR!
I'LL SPLIT OPEN THE FIRST CAT THAT TRIES!!

...WHICH BRINGS ME TO MY NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS.
HACK
COUGH


LIONHEART AND TIGERCLAW HAVE BEEN SPLITTING FIREPAW'S TRAINING DUTIES.
IN ORDER TO SPEED UP OVERALL WARRIOR TRAINING, *I* WILL BE TAKING FIREPAW ON AS *MY OWN APPRENTICE.*

HOWEVER.

FIREPAW *BROKE THE WARRIOR CODE* TODAY, AND I AM NOW ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR DECIDING HIS *PUNISHMENT.*

I HAVE DECIDED TO FELL *TWO PREY* WITH *ONE BLOW...*
...FIREPAW, *YOU* WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CARING FOR YELLOWFANG.

ALL RIGHT, FIREPAW.

COME AT ME.
SHOW ME WHAT LIONHEART AND TIGERCLAW HAVE TAUGHT YOU SO FAR.
NOD!

RREEE!!

--OWR?

YOU KNOW, YELLOWFANG WASN'T *ALWAYS* BAD-TEMPERED LIKE THAT.

I THINK I COULD GROW TO LIKE HER.
OOF!

HOWEVER...
THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT HER I STILL DON'T TRUST.
BUT YOU'VE DONE WELL, FIREPAW.

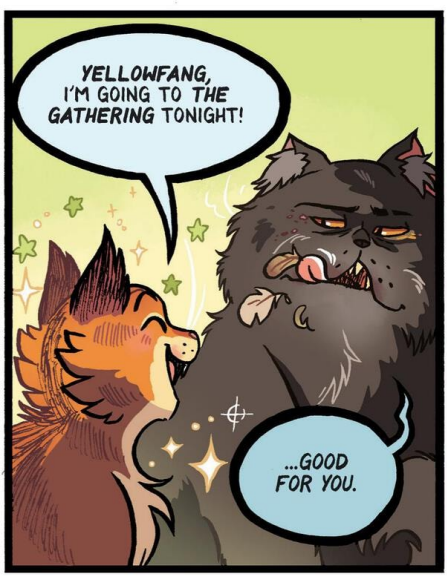
WE CAN CONTINUE YOUR BATTLE TRAINING LATER.
FOR NOW, GO TELL GRAYPAW AND RAVENPAW...

THAT THE THREE OF YOU ARE COMING TO THE GATHERING TONIGHT.

MMOWWFMG!!

MMEWOWFMMG!!

PTOO!


YELLOWFANG, I'M GOING TO THE GATHERING TONIGHT!
...GOOD FOR YOU.

AND SO I SAID,
"YOU GOTTA BE PULLING MY WHISKERS HERE!"
HA
HA HA
GRAYPAW!
RAVENPAW!
WAH!
WHOA!
WE'RE GOING TO THE GATHERING!

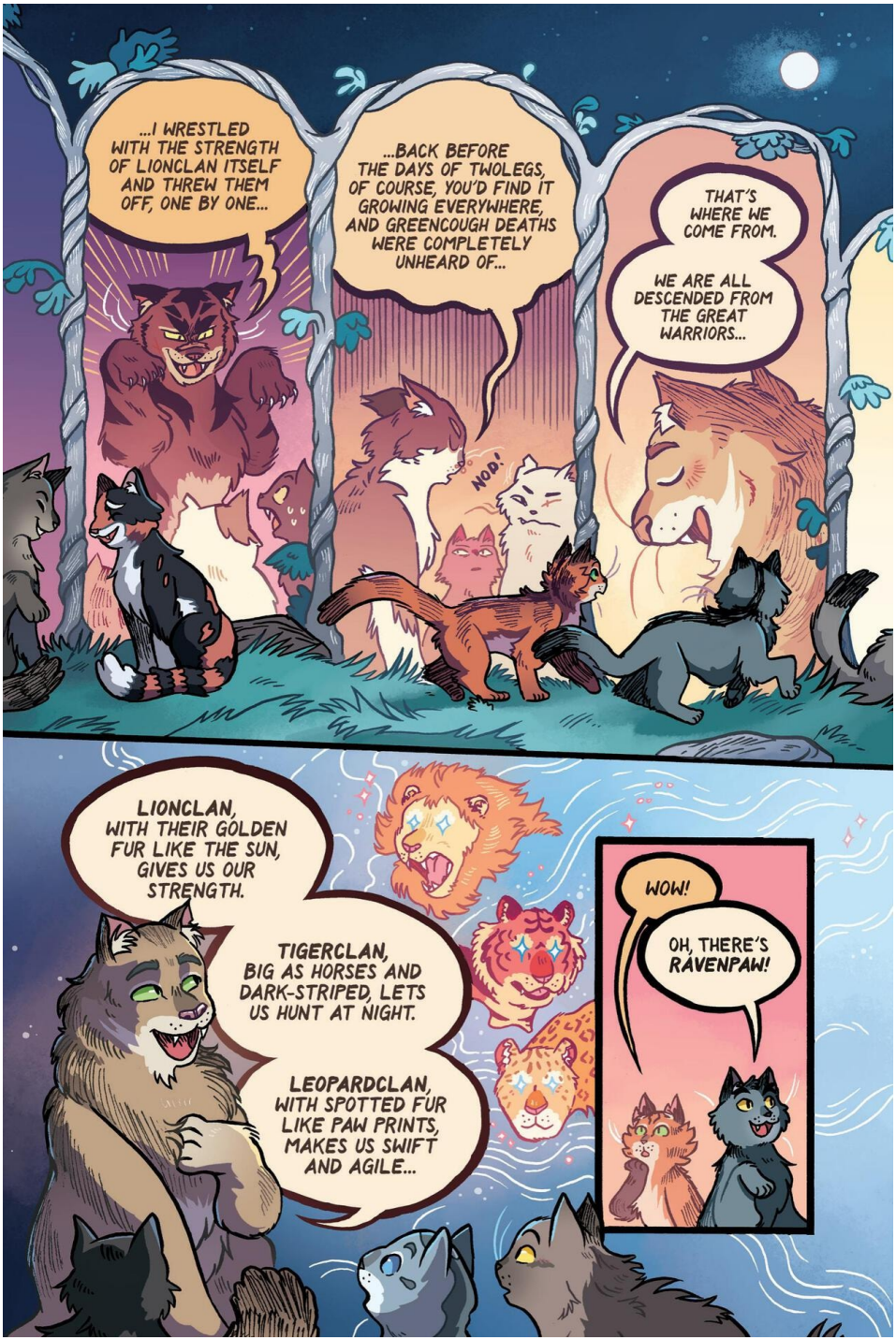
WOW...
THERE ARE SO MANY CATS!
I DON'T SEE OR SMELL WINDCLAN ANYWHERE, THOUGH.
THEY MAY JUST BE LATE TONIGHT.
NOD!
IN THE MEANTIME, YOU SHOULD MINGLE WITH THE OTHER CLANS.
THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND LEARN ABOUT YOUR ENEMIES.

LOOK, FIREPAW!
UP THERE ON THE GREAT ROCK ARE THE CLAN LEADERS:
THAT'S CROOKEDSTAR, LEADER OF RIVERCLAN.
AND THAT'S BROKENSTAR, OF SHADOWCLAN.

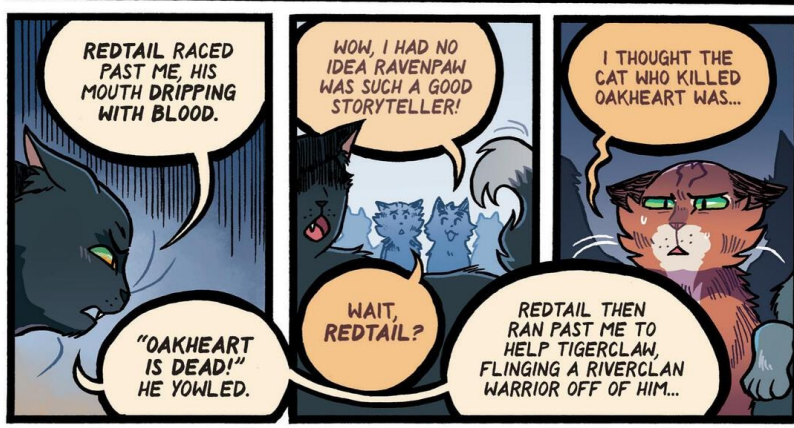
HE LOOKS PRETTY NASTY...
YEAH.
HE HASN'T BEEN LEADER FOR LONG, BUT HE HAS A FIERCE REPUTATION.
HIS FATHER RAGGEDSTAR WAS LEADER BEFORE HIM, AND JUST AS TOUGH.
STILL NO SIGN OF WINDCLAN OR TALLSTAR, THOUGH.

COME ON, LET'S GO MEET SOME CATS!
IT'S NOT EVERY NIGHT WE GET TO COME TO A GATHERING, SO LET'S MAKE THE MOST OF IT!

SO THERE I WAS, PINNED BY THREE RIVERCLAN WARRIORS...


...I WRESTLED WITH THE STRENGTH OF LIONCLAN ITSELF AND THREW THEM OFF, ONE BY ONE...
...BACK BEFORE THE DAYS OF TWOLEGS, OF COURSE, YOU'D FIND IT GROWING EVERYWHERE, AND GREENCOUGH DEATHS WERE COMPLETELY UNHEARD OF...
NOD!
THAT'S WHERE WE COME FROM.
WE ARE ALL DESCENDED FROM THE GREAT WARRIORS...
LIONCLAN, WITH THEIR GOLDEN FUR LIKE THE SUN, GIVES US OUR STRENGTH.
TIGERCLAN, BIG AS HORSES AND DARK-STRIPED, LETS US HUNT AT NIGHT.
LEOPARDCLAN, WITH SPOTTED FUR LIKE PAW PRINTS, MAKES US SWIFT AND AGILE...
WOW!
OH, THERE'S RAVENPAW!

FUR WAS FLYING EVERYWHERE.
FRESH BLOOD SPATTERED THE LEAVES OF THE BRAMBLE BUSHES, BRIGHT RED AGAINST NEWLEAF GREEN.
I HEARD A WARRIOR'S SCREAM--
IT WAS OAKHEART!


REDTAIL RACED PAST ME, HIS MOUTH DRIPPING WITH BLOOD.
"OAKHEART IS DEAD!" HE YOWLED.
WOW, I HAD NO IDEA RAVENPAW WAS SUCH A GOOD STORYTELLER!
WAIT, REDTAIL?
I THOUGHT THE CAT WHO KILLED OAKHEART WAS...
REDTAIL THEN RAN PAST ME TO HELP TIGERCLAW, FLINGING A RIVERCLAN WARRIOR OFF OF HIM...

...TIGERCLAW?
...into...
...the bushes...

THAT'S ENOUGH, RAVENPAW.
LOOK, THE CLAN LEADERS ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN.
AWWWW!

DO ALL THE SHADOWCLAN APPRENTICES LOOK SMALL TO YOU LATELY, OR IS IT JUST ME?
ALL CATS LOOK SMALL TO YOU AND TIGERCLAW, LIONHEART.
YOOWWL!

CATS OF ALL CLANS...
...WELCOME!

...
WHERE IS WINDCLAN?
SHOULDN'T WE WAIT FOR WINDCLAN?

IT IS TRUE THAT WINDCLAN IS NOT PRESENT.
BUT BROKENSTAR WISHES TO SPEAK ANYWAY.

FRIENDS, I COME TO YOU TONIGHT TO SPEAK ABOUT--
AS LEADER OF SHADOWCLAN, IT IS MY RIGHT TO ADDRESS YOU HERE!
HISSSS!!
YOU MUST LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY!
WHERE IS TALLSTAR?
WE CANNOT START WITHOUT ALL FOUR CLANS!
yeah!
THE HARSH LEAF-BARE AND LATE NEWLEAF HAS LEFT CATS OF ALL CLANS WITH SCARCE PREY.
STEP.
WE ALL KNOW THIS.
WE ALSO KNOW THAT WINDCLAN, RIVERCLAN, AND THUNDERCLAN HAVE LOST KITS TO THE CHILL.
BUT SHADOWCLAN KITS ARE BORN HARDENED TO THE COLD NORTH WIND.
OUR KITS ARE STRONG.
BUT STILL, THEY MUST BE FED.

THE NEEDS OF SHADOWCLAN ARE SIMPLE:
WE MUST EXPAND OUR HUNTING TERRITORY TO SURVIVE.
YOU MUST ALLOW SHADOWCLAN TO HUNT IN YOUR TERRITORIES.
SHARE HUNTING GROUNDS?!
THE CLANS HAVE NEVER DONE THIS!
THIS CANNOT BE!
WHAT ABOUT OUR OWN KITS?!
...I SEE.
WINDCLAN ALSO FAILED TO SEE THINGS OUR WAY.
MY WARRIORS AND I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO DRIVE THEM OUT BY FORCE.
IF WE HAVE TO, WE WILL DRIVE YOU ALL OUT TO FEED OUR OWN.

I...
...I HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO ALLOW SHADOWCLAN HUNTING RIGHTS IN THE RIVER THAT RUNS THROUGH RIVERCLAN TERRITORY.
WITHOUT CONSULTING OUR CLAN?!
IT'S WHAT'S BEST FOR OUR CLAN.
FOR ALL CLANS.
AND YOU, BLUESTAR?
WHAT DOES THUNDERCLAN SAY?
I WILL DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL WITH MY CLAN, AFTER THE GATHERING.
tch.
IF YOU MUST.

WELL, AT LEAST THAT'S *SOMETHING*.
THUNDERCLAN WON'T GIVE UP AS EASY AS *RIVERCLAN*--
I HAVE ONE MORE PIECE OF NEWS.
A CAT FROM SHADOWCLAN HAS GONE *ROGUE* AND ABANDONED THE WARRIOR CODE.
A MANGY OLD CREATURE, BUT WITH A BITE TO RIVAL TIGERCLAN. *WE DROVE HER OUT.*
SHE IS DANGEROUS, AND MUST *NOT* BE OFFERED SHELTER OR MERCY.
UNTIL SHE IS CAUGHT AND KILLED...
WELL...
KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR KITS, I'D SAY.

HE MUST HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT YELLOWFANG!
I TOLD YOU SHE WAS DANGEROUS!
HISSSSSS!!
AND WE'VE LEFT THE CAMP PRACTICALLY UNDEFENDED!
BLUESTAR HAS TO SEE REASON AND GET RID OF HER AT ONCE!
FROSTFUR'S KITS...!
YELLOWFANG...
WE MUST RETURN TO CAMP AT ONCE AND DEAL WITH HER!
...A KIT-KILLER?!
COULD IT EVEN BE POSSIBLE?
I HAVE TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH, BEFORE THEY TEAR HER TO SHREDS!

YELLOWFANG!!
YELLOWFANG, WAKE UP! IT'S IMPORTANT!
mmmrp?

HERE STRAIGHT FROM THE *GATHERING*, ARE YOU?

SO ***BROKENSTAR*** INTENDS TO KEEP HIS PROMISE.
WHAT PROMISE?

TO CAST ME OUT OF ***EVERY CLAN TERRITORY.***
WHAT DID HE TELL YOU?
HE SAID...

...HE SAID YOU WERE A DANGER TO OUR KITS.
YOU WEREN'T MENTIONED BY NAME, BUT THUNDERCLAN GUESSED WHO HE WAS TALKING ABOUT.
YOU'RE IN DANGER! THE OTHER CATS ARE SCARED AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO--
YOU MEAN THEY BELIEVED BROKENSTAR?
YELLOWFANG, WHAT DID HE MEAN BY THAT?
WOULD...
WOULD YOU REALLY DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
...IS THAT SOMETHING YOU THINK I WOULD DO, FIREPAW?

...NO, I KNOW YOU.
YELLOWFANG, I DON'T BELIEVE YOU WOULD EVER HARM A KIT.
BUT YOU STILL HAVE TO GO, NOW!
IF YOU DON'T, THEY'LL CATCH YOU, AND...
...a-and...
FIREPAW.
I'M TOO OLD TO RUN ANYMORE.
IF YOU BELIEVE ME, THEN OTHERS MIGHT, TOO.
I KNOW AT LEAST BLUESTAR WILL BE FAIR.
NOW GO, BEFORE YOU'RE FOUND HERE.
HAVE FAITH IN YOUR LEADER.
LET HER DECIDE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME.

BROKENSTAR HAS DEMANDED HUNTING RIGHTS FOR SHADOWCLAN IN OUR TERRITORY!
AND HE WARNED US ABOUT A ROGUE WHO COULD HARM OUR KITS!
HE MUST MEAN YELLOWFANG!
SILENCE!
YOWWL!!!
HOLD ON.
I GAVE NO ORDERS TO ATTACK OUR PRISONER!
THE KITS ARE SAFE!
THANK STARCLAN WE GOT BACK TO CAMP IN TIME!
MEW!
OF COURSE THEY'RE SAFE!
BUT...
YOU ARE GOING TO THROW YELLOWFANG OUT, AREN'T YOU?

BROKENSTAR ONLY SAID THERE WAS A ROGUE.
HE DIDN'T MENTION YELLOWFANG BY NAME, AND OUR KITS ARE SAFE.
AS LONG AS SHE IS IN THIS CLAN...
YELLOWFANG IS NOT TO BE HARMED.

I WILL LEAVE NOW IF YOU WISH, BLUESTAR.
THERE IS NO NEED.
YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING WRONG.

THE REAL THREAT TO OUR CLAN NOW IS BROKENSTAR HIMSELF.
BROKENSTAR HAS DEMANDED HUNTING RIGHTS TO OUR TERRITORY, BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GIVING IN.

BUT CAN WE EVEN DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST SHADOWCLAN?
WINDCLAN WAS SCATTERED.
RIVERCLAN DIDN'T EVEN TRY!

THEN THUNDERCLAN ALONE WILL STAND AGAINST BROKENSTAR.
WE WILL NOT GIVE UP OUR TERRITORY WITHOUT A FIGHT!
THUNDERCLAN!!
YEAH!
HEAR, HEAR!

TOMORROW I WILL TRAVEL TO THE *MOONSTONE* TO SEEK COUNSEL WITH STARCLAN.
FIREPAW.
GRAYPAW.
RAVENPAW.
AND TIGERCLAW.
YOU WILL ACCOMPANY ME ON THE JOURNEY TO *MOTHERMOUTH.*
FOR NOW, GET SOME REST, ALL OF YOU.
WE HAVE A LOT TO DO COME DAYLIGHT.

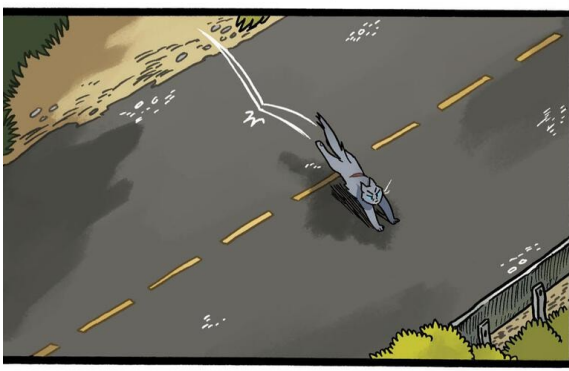
NO!!!
WAKE UP, FIREPAW!
WE'RE LEAVING SOON, AND YOU STILL NEED TO TAKE YOUR TRAVELING HERBS!
...A DREAM?

THERE YOU GO! THESE WILL MAKE YOU STRONG FOR THE JOURNEY AHEAD.
THANKS, SPOTTEDLEAF...
GRAYPAW...
WHAT IS THE MOONSTONE?
AND HOW CAN YOU TALK TO STARCLAN WITH IT?

I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW IT WORKS, BUT...
IT'S A ROCK DEEP UNDERGROUND THAT SHINES IN THE DARK.
LEADERS DREAM NEAR IT TO TALK TO STARCLAN, AND GAIN THEIR NINE LIVES AND NEW NAME.
LIONHEART SAYS IT'S A BIG STEP IN YOUR WARRIOR TRAINING TO TRAVEL THERE!
I WISH HE WAS COMING WITH US BUT SOME CAT HAS TO DEFEND THE CAMP!
DO YOU REALLY THINK SHADOWCLAN WILL TRY TO ATTACK WHILE WE'RE GONE?
I HOPE NOT! I DON'T WANT TO MISS THE ACTION!
BUT IF THEY DO--
I'M SURE THE ILLUSTRIOUS LIONHEART WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT.
NOW, PAY ATTENTION.
WE HAVE TO CROSS...
THE THUNDERPATH.
WE GO ONE AT A TIME.
YOU FIRST, RAVENPAW.

I WILL GO FIRST.

IT'S THE APPRENTICES' FIRST TIME CROSSING, AFTER ALL.



ALL CLEAR!

HOOONK!!!

CAN WE KEEP GOING?
YES, LET'S MOVE ON.
PANT PANT

BROKENSTAR WASN'T LYING.
I CAN'T SMELL *ANY* WINDCLAN SCENTS.
ONLY *SHADOWCLAN.*

THEY'RE *UPWIND,* SO THEY WON'T KNOW WE'RE HERE IF WE KEEP MOVING.

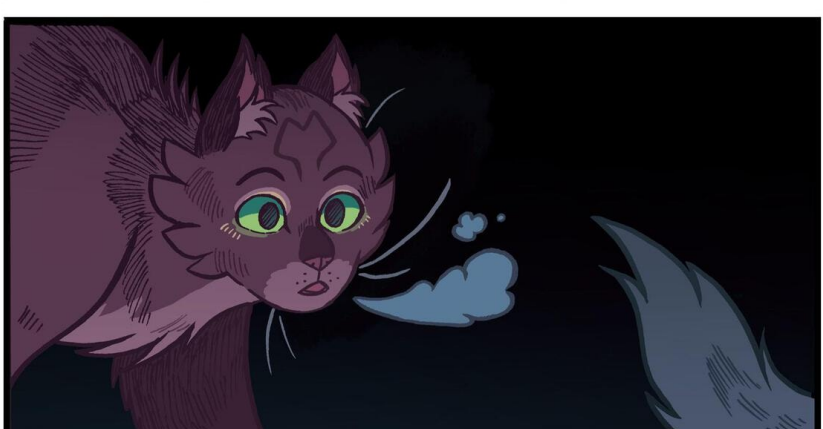
ALL CLANS ARE ENTITLED TO *SAFE PASSAGE* TO THE MOONSTONE, BUT...
SHADOWCLAN DOESN'T SEEM TO RESPECT THE WARRIOR CODE ANYMORE.

BARK BARK BARK
IT'S TIED UP.
PAY IT NO MIND.

LOOK.

MOTHERMOUTH.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE DARKNESS.
I KNOW THE WAY.
RAVENPAW AND GRAYPAW, YOU WILL STAND GUARD OUTSIDE.
FIREPAW AND TIGERCLAW...

...YOU TWO WILL ACCOMPANY ME DOWN TO THE MOONSTONE.



WHERE ARE WE?
WE HAVE ENTERED THE CAVERN OF THE MOONSTONE.
WAIT HERE. IT WILL BE MOONHIGH SOON.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, YOUNG WARRIOR.
DON'T BE AFRAID.
IN THE WORLD ABOVE, TIGERCLAW IS A FIERCE AND MIGHTY WARRIOR.
BUT DOWN HERE, IN THE FULL LIGHT OF STARCLAN'S POWER...
...A CAT NEEDS A DIFFERENT KIND OF STRENGTH.
WHAT DO YOU FEEL, FIREPAW?
ONLY MY OWN CURIOSITY.
THAT IS GOOD.

IF STARCLAN TALKS TO CATS THROUGH DREAMS... THAT DREAM I HAD ABOUT THE BATTLE...

...WAS IT REALLY JUST A DREAM? OR COULD IT HAVE BEEN--

YES, BLUESTAR.
HURRY.

WE HAVE TO RETURN TO CAMP AT ONCE.

TIGERCLAW.
WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

WE MUST RETURN TO CAMP.

IMMEDIATELY.

DID TIGERCLAW SAY ANYTHING WHEN HE CAME OUT OF THE CAVE BEFORE?

JUST THAT HE WANTED TO CHECK ON US.
HE DID SEEM A LITTLE EDGY...

HE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE!
YOU JUMPED CLEAR OUT OF YOUR FUR WHEN HE SHOWED UP!
H-HE JUST SURPRISED ME!
THAT'S ALL!

SO FIREPAW, WHAT WAS THE MOONSTONE LIKE?
IT WAS AMAZING!
I --

HISSS!!
A LONER!

RELAX, THIS CAT IS A FRIEND.
HI!
THIS IS BARLEY.
HE LIVES NEAR THE TWOLEG NEST AROUND HERE.

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN MOONS, BLUESTAR! HOW ARE YA?
I'M...WELL.
HOW'S THE PREY RUNNING FOR YOU?

NOT BAD!
ONE GOOD THING ABOUT TWOLEGS...
...WHERE THEY ARE, THERE'S PLENTY OF RATS TO EAT!

IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT--
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT, BARLEY?
SWAP!

I JUST WANTED TO WARN YOU THAT THERE ARE DOGS OUT NOW.
THE TWOLEGS LET THEM LOOSE AT NIGHT TO GUARD THEIR NEST.
YOU'D BE SAFER GOING BACK THROUGH THE CORNFIELD TO AVOID THEM.

BLUESTAR, HOW CAN YOU TRUST A LONER--
THANK YOU FOR THE WARNING, BARLEY.

UNTIL NEXT TIME.
HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY!

SNIFF
SNIFF

MRRO

YOWWWL!!!
RATS!!

BARLEY SENT US RIGHT INTO A TRAP!
RAVENPAW!!

CRUNCH
BLUESTAR!!

RRREOWRR!
SQUEEEE!
SQUEEE!
SQUEEEE!!
MROWR

SCRUFF!
WHY DID YOU SEND US INTO A TRAP?!
SLAM!

HISSS!
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WOULD BE SO MANY RATS HERE!

TIGERCLAW!
BLUESTAR'S HURT!

SNIFF

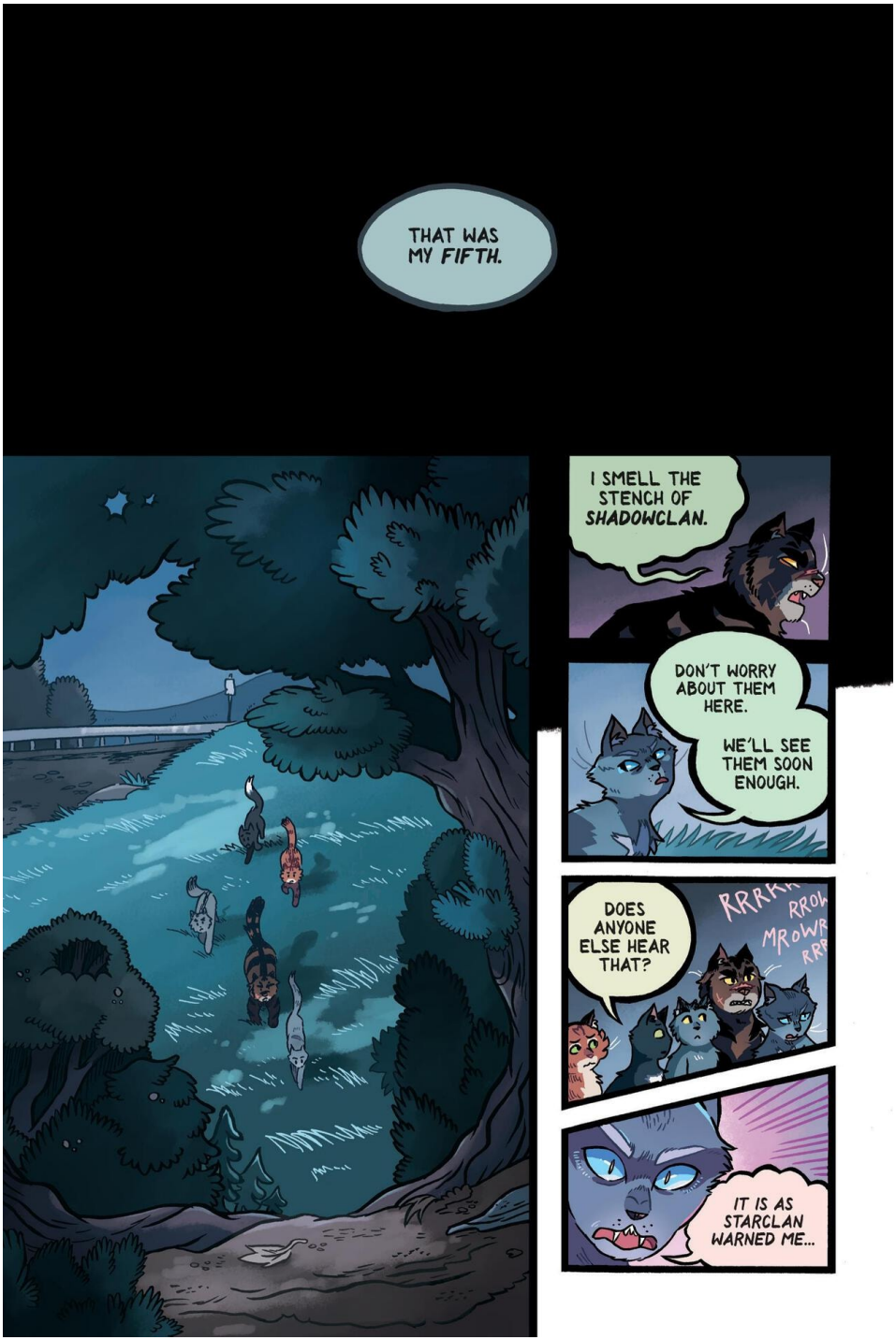
SHE IS IN STARCLAN'S PAWS NOW.

DOES THAT MEAN BLUESTAR IS...?

CHK!

IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M STILL HERE.

THANK YOU.
WE CAN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME.
BLUESTAR.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU LOSE A LIFE IN A LONG TIME.
HOW MANY OF YOUR NINE HAVE YOU LOST NOW?


THAT WAS MY FIFTH.
I SMELL THE STENCH OF SHADOWCLAN.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM HERE.
WE'LL SEE THEM SOON ENOUGH.
DOES ANYONE ELSE HEAR THAT?
RRRKR
RROW
MROWR
RRP
IT IS AS STARCLAN WARNED ME...

THE THUNDERCLAN CAMP IS BEING ATTACKED!

YOOWLLL!!!
FROSTFUR'S KITS!!
AHHH!
HELP!
HISSS!!!
HISSSSSS

SSSSS--
OH!
FIREPAW.
IT'S JUST YOU.
fiah-paw...

WAS THAT THE DEPUTY OF SHADOWCLAN?
WHERE DID HE--
YES, AND I CHASED THE LITTLE MOUSE DROPPING OFF.

GO.
THE KITS ARE SAFE WITH ME.
yewwo-fang!

NOD.

HISSS!
GO BACK TO BROKENSTAR, YOU MANGE-PELTS!!

YOU OKAY, GRAYPAW?
Y-YEAH...
BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND--

GRAYPAW.

...LIONHEART.

I'LL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU'VE TAUGHT ME.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR WISDOM.
I'M SO SORRY...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITHOUT YOU?
CATS OF THUNDERCLAN...

IT IS NEARLY MOONHIGH, AND A NEW DEPUTY MUST BE CHOSEN.
I SAY THIS BEFORE THE BODY OF LIONHEART, SO HE MAY HEAR AND APPROVE MY CHOICE...
TIGERCLAW WILL BE THE NEW DEPUTY OF THUNDERCLAN.
TIGERCLAW!
TIGERCLAW!
TIGERCLAW!
TIGERCLAW!
TIGERCLAW!
THANK YOU, BLUESTAR.
NO...!
I AM HONORED TO ACCEPT.

I ALSO WANT TO HONOR A CAT WHO SHOWED HER LOYALTY TO THE CLAN DURING THE ATTACK.
YELLOWFANG, SHOULD YOU WISH IT...
WE WELCOME YOU AS A FULL MEMBER OF THUNDERCLAN.
I AM HONORED, AND I ACCEPT--
BLUESTAR, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
THE BLOOD THAT SHADOWCLAN SPILLED IN OUR CAMP IS NOT YET DRY, AND YOU INVITE HER IN?!
SHE SAVED OUR KITS, TIGERCLAW!
SHE FOUGHT OFF A SHADOWCLAN WARRIOR!
SHE FOUGHT OFF THE DEPUTY OF SHADOWCLAN!

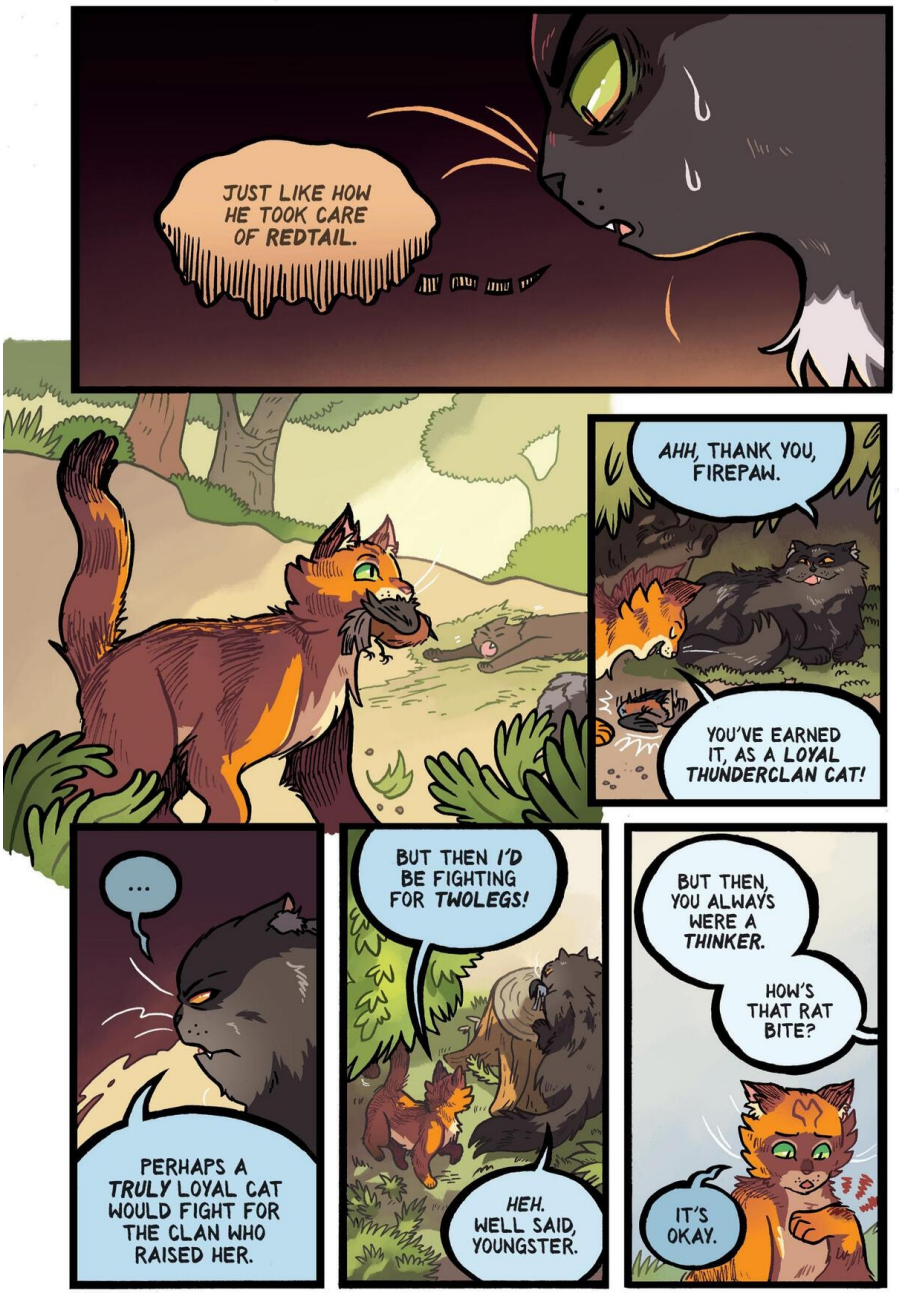
YELLOWFANG!
YELLOWFANG!
YELLOWFANG!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT...

LAST NIGHT, WE SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED OURSELVES AGAINST SHADOWCLAN, AT THE COST OF TWO BRAVE CATS:
LIONHEART AND ROSETAIL.
SHADOWCLAN IS STILL A GREAT THREAT TO US.

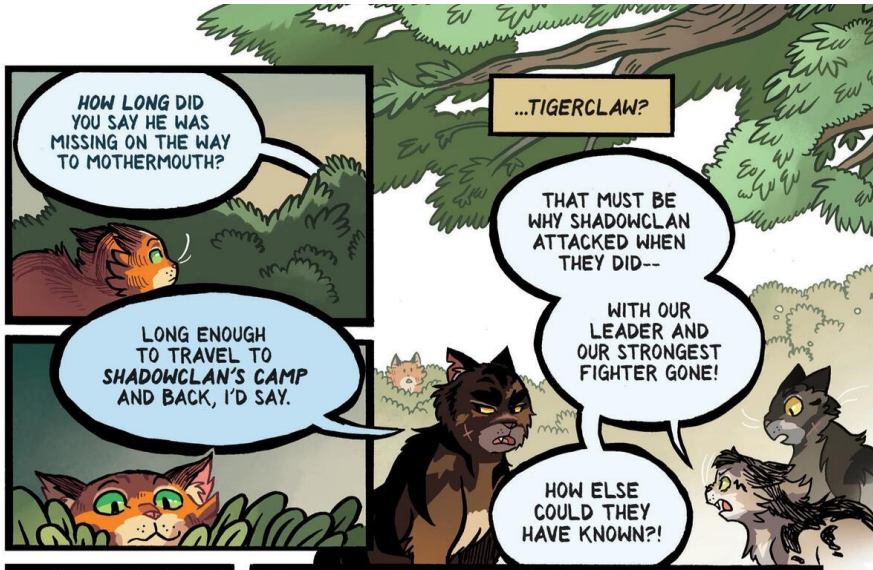
WE MUST BEGIN REPAIR WORK ON THE CAMP AND ADDITIONAL PATROLS.

WHICH I WILL BE COORDINATING.

ALONG WITH A GUARD ON BLUESTAR TO PRIORITIZE HER REMAINING LIVES...
AND ADDITIONAL HUNTING AND BORDER PATROLS...
TAKING CARE OF EVERYTHING...
SENTRIES, SCENT MARKERS...


JUST LIKE HOW HE TOOK CARE OF REDTAIL.
AHH, THANK YOU, FIREPAW.
YOU'VE EARNED IT, AS A LOYAL THUNDERCLAN CAT!
...
PERHAPS A TRULY LOYAL CAT WOULD FIGHT FOR THE CLAN WHO RAISED HER.
BUT THEN I'D BE FIGHTING FOR TWOLEGS!
HEH. WELL SAID, YOUNGSTER.
BUT THEN, YOU ALWAYS WERE A THINKER.
HOW'S THAT RAT BITE?
IT'S OKAY.

SPOTTEDLEAF TREATED IT WITH MARIGOLD.
SOMETIMES THAT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR RAT BITES. GO FIND SOME *WILD GARLIC* TO ROLL IN.
IT'LL HELP DRAW OUT THE POISON.
THANKS, YELLOWFANG!
STARCLAN KNOWS MY APPRENTICE HAS SHOWN LITTLE PROMISE...
BUT I *NEVER* EXPECTED HIM TO TURN *TRAITOR!*
IS THAT...


HOW LONG DID YOU SAY HE WAS MISSING ON THE WAY TO MOTHERMOUTH?
LONG ENOUGH TO TRAVEL TO SHADOWCLAN'S CAMP AND BACK, I'D SAY.
...TIGERCLAW?
THAT MUST BE WHY SHADOWCLAN ATTACKED WHEN THEY DID--
WITH OUR LEADER AND OUR STRONGEST FIGHTER GONE!
HOW ELSE COULD THEY HAVE KNOWN?!

THUNDERCLAN IS THE ONLY ONE TO STAND AGAINST BROKENSTAR.
WE MUST REMAIN STRONG.

I THINK WE'D BE STRONGER WITHOUT A TRAITOR LIKE RAVENPAW.
POOR TIGERCLAW...

IT TRULY PAINS ME TO SPEAK AGAINST MY OWN APPRENTICE...

...BUT YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT, DARKSTRIPE.

NICE CATCH, RAVENPAW!
mrrf!

BETWEEN THIS AND THE VOLES WE CAUGHT...
...EVEN TIGERCLAW CAN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT THIS CATCH!

SPEAKING OF WHICH--
WE--
UM, WE SHOULD BE GETTING BACK TO CAMP.

MY KITS!!

SOME CAT HAS TAKEN MY KITS!
QUICK, SEARCH THE CAMP!
WHITESTORM, GUARD THE NURSERY!
WARRIORS, PATROL THE PERIMETER!
APPRENTICES, SEARCH EVERY DEN!

YELLOWFANG? WHERE IS SHE GOING?
YOWWL!
N...
NO...
KRACK!

SPOTTEDLEAF!!
SHE WAS FELLED BY A WARRIOR BLOW.
THIS WAS NOT AN ACCIDENT.
YELLOWFANG IS GONE!
RMBLL
RRRMBBLLL
YELLOWFANG HAS KILLED SPOTTEDLEAF AND TAKEN MY KITS!!

YELLOWFANG!
I ALWAYS KNEW SHE WAS A TRAITOR!
THAT "FIGHT" WITH THE SHADOWCLAN DEPUTY WAS JUST A TRICK TO STEAL OUR TRUST!
BLUESTAR!
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
BRMB

IF YELLOWFANG TRULY IS RESPONSIBLE, SHE WILL BE HUNTED AND KILLED WITHOUT MERCY.
BUT WE MUST WAIT.
THERE IS A STORM COMING, AND I AM NOT PREPARED TO RISK EVEN MORE LIVES.
IF SHADOWCLAN HAS OUR KITS, I SUSPECT BROKENSTAR INTENDS TO USE THEM AS HOSTAGES OR RECRUITS, AND THEY WILL NOT COME TO IMMEDIATE HARM.
WE WILL SEND A PATROL AFTER THE STORM HAS PASSED.
BUT BLUESTAR--

THE SCENT WILL BE LOST IN THE RAIN!
IF WE SEND OUT A PARTY NOW, OUR EFFORTS WILL BE WASTED ANYWAY.
PLIP!
AFTER THE STORM, WE STAND A BETTER CHANCE OF SUCCESS.
FOR NOW, WE WILL DISCUSS THE PATROL AND OUR STRATEGY IN THE LEADER'S DEN.
TPT!
FIREPAW.
NOD!

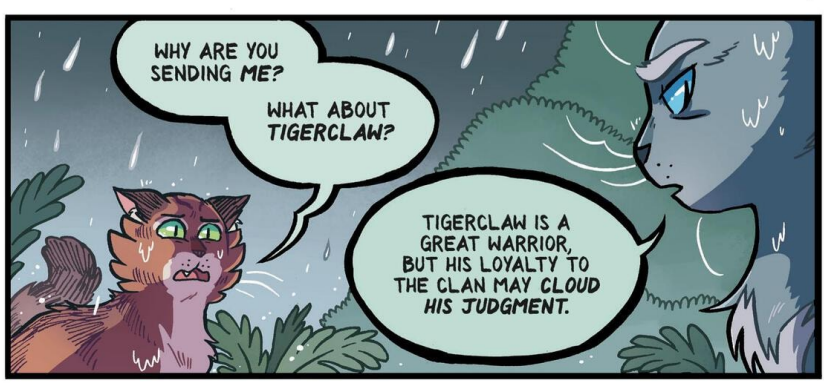
FIREPAW, DO YOU KNOW WHERE YELLOWFANG IS?

I ...

I SAW YELLOWFANG LEAVE THE CAMP WHEN THE KITS WENT MISSING.

BLUESTAR, DO YOU REALLY THINK SHE KILLED SPOTTEDLEAF?

I DON'T KNOW.
BUT I NEED TO KNOW THE TRUTH, AND I THINK YOU DO, TOO.
PLIP!
PLIP
PLIP!
I WANT YOU TO FIND YELLOWFANG, AND BRING HER BACK ALIVE.
PLIP!


WHY ARE YOU SENDING ME?
WHAT ABOUT TIGERCLAW?
TIGERCLAW IS A GREAT WARRIOR, BUT HIS LOYALTY TO THE CLAN MAY CLOUD HIS JUDGMENT.

BRRM
THUNDERCLAN BELIEVES YELLOWFANG HAS BETRAYED US, AND WANTS *REVENGE.*
BRMBLLL
TIGERCLAW THINKS BRINGING BACK A CORPSE WILL BRING THEM *SATISFACTION,* SO THAT'S WHAT HE WOULD SET OUT TO DO.
IF I FIND THAT SHE *IS* A TRAITOR, THEN I WILL KILL HER *MYSELF.*
BUT IF SHE IS NOT... I WILL NOT LET AN INNOCENT CAT DIE.
BUT WHAT IF YELLOWFANG *WON'T* COME BACK?
SHE WILL.
SHE'LL COME BACK...
...IF IT'S *YOU* WHO ASKS HER.

BEFORE I LEAVE...
...MY LAST CHANCE TO SAY GOODBYE TO SPOTTEDLEAF.
YELLOWFANG MUST HAVE HAD HELP.
FROM INSIDE THUNDERCLAN?
YOU'VE HEARD WHAT TIGERCLAW SAID ABOUT RAVENPAW, HAVEN'T YOU?
I'M JUST SAYING, I NEVER FELT COMFORTABLE AROUND HIM...
I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!
ARE YOU GOING SOMEWHERE?
BLUESTAR SENT ME TO GO FIND YELLOWFANG.
NOW?
WHAT ABOUT TIGERCLAW?
SHE THINKS I KNOW HER BEST AND WANTS HER ALIVE.
I SEE...
I'LL COME WITH YOU, THEN.
HISSS!

GET AWAY FROM OUR NURSERY!!
I-I WAS JUST--
GET OUT!!

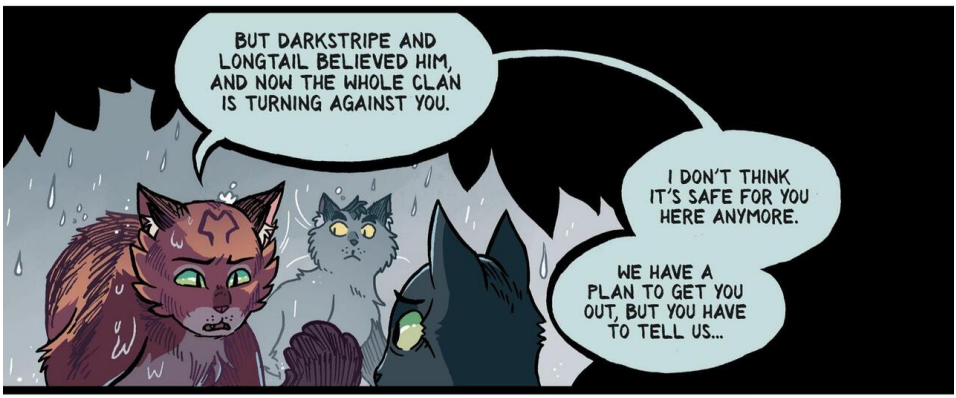
...WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

GRAYPAW...
I THINK RAVENPAW IS IN GREAT DANGER.

RAVENPAW!

TIGERCLAW HAS BEEN SPREADING RUMORS ABOUT YOU AND YELLOWFANG BEING *SHADOWCLAN TRAITORS.*
HE'S BEEN HINTING THAT YOU REPORTED TO THEM ON THE TRIP TO MOTHERMOUTH.

BUT HE WAS WITH *US* THE WHOLE TIME!
I KNOW.


BUT DARKSTRIPE AND LONGTAIL BELIEVED HIM, AND NOW THE WHOLE CLAN IS TURNING AGAINST YOU.
I DON'T THINK IT'S SAFE FOR YOU HERE ANYMORE.
WE HAVE A PLAN TO GET YOU OUT, BUT YOU HAVE TO TELL US...

...WHY WOULD TIGERCLAW *LIE?*
WHY DOES HE WANT YOU GONE?
BBRRUMBLL...

KRACK
BECAUSE I KNOW THE RIVERCLAN DEPUTY DIDN'T KILL REDTAIL.
TIGERCLAW KILLED REDTAIL...
...AT THE BATTLE WITH RIVERCLAN AT SUNNINGROCKS.
BOOM

I DIDN'T SEE HOW OAKHEART DIED, BUT WHEN REDTAIL TOLD US, TIGERCLAW SENT ME BACK TO CAMP.
I WANTED TO STAY, BUT HE YOWLED AT ME TO GO, SO I LEFT.
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TURNED BACK, BUT WHEN I DID, I SAW THEM...
...RIVERCLAN HAD FLED, LEAVING TIGERCLAW AND REDTAIL ALONE...
...REDTAIL'S BACK WAS TURNED, AND TIGERCLAW BIT HIM...
...IT WAS OVER IN SECONDS.

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL BLUESTAR?
WOULD SHE HAVE BELIEVED ME?
MY WORD AGAINST *TIGERCLAW*?
DO *YOU* EVEN BELIEVE ME?
OF COURSE WE BELIEVE YOU.
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND *WHY* TIGERCLAW WOULD DO THAT.
ME NEITHER.
MAYBE HE THOUGHT BLUESTAR WOULD MAKE *HIM* DEPUTY.
WE CAN'T TAKE YOU ANY FARTHER.

WE HAVE TO FIND YELLOWFANG BEFORE THE STORM ENDS.
DO YOU REMEMBER THE WAY TO BARLEY'S FARM?
YES, I DO.

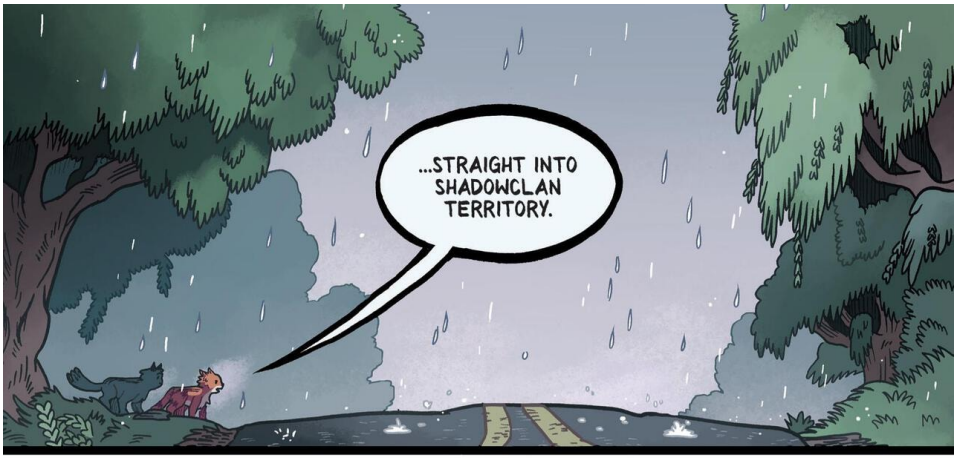
THANK YOU BOTH...
FOR EVERYTHING.

DON'T WORRY.
STARCLAN WILL BRING US TOGETHER AGAIN.

I'LL MAKE SURE THAT THUNDERCLAN KNOWS YOU'RE NOT A TRAITOR, TOO!
BUT...
WHAT IF TIGERCLAW COMES LOOKING FOR ME?

HE WON'T.
I'LL TELL THUNDERCLAN THAT YOU'RE DEAD.
NOD.
WHY DON'T WE JUST GO STRAIGHT INTO SHADOWCLAN TERRITORY?
CRACK!
I HAVE TO PICK UP HER SCENT TRAIL FIRST.

A-HA!
SHE WENT THIS WAY!


...STRAIGHT INTO SHADOWCLAN TERRITORY.

FIREPAW...
DO YOU *REALLY* THINK YELLOWFANG IS INNOCENT?

I DON'T KNOW.

BUT BLUESTAR SENT ME, AND I'M GOING TO *FIND OUT.*

HOW CAN YOU EVEN STILL FOLLOW HER SCENT TRAIL?
ALL I SMELL IS *WET.*
IT'S STILL THERE.

WAIT. I SMELL--

I SMELL IT TOO...
BLOOD.
C'MON.
SHE'S CLOSE BY.
YELLOWFANG!!
POUNCE!

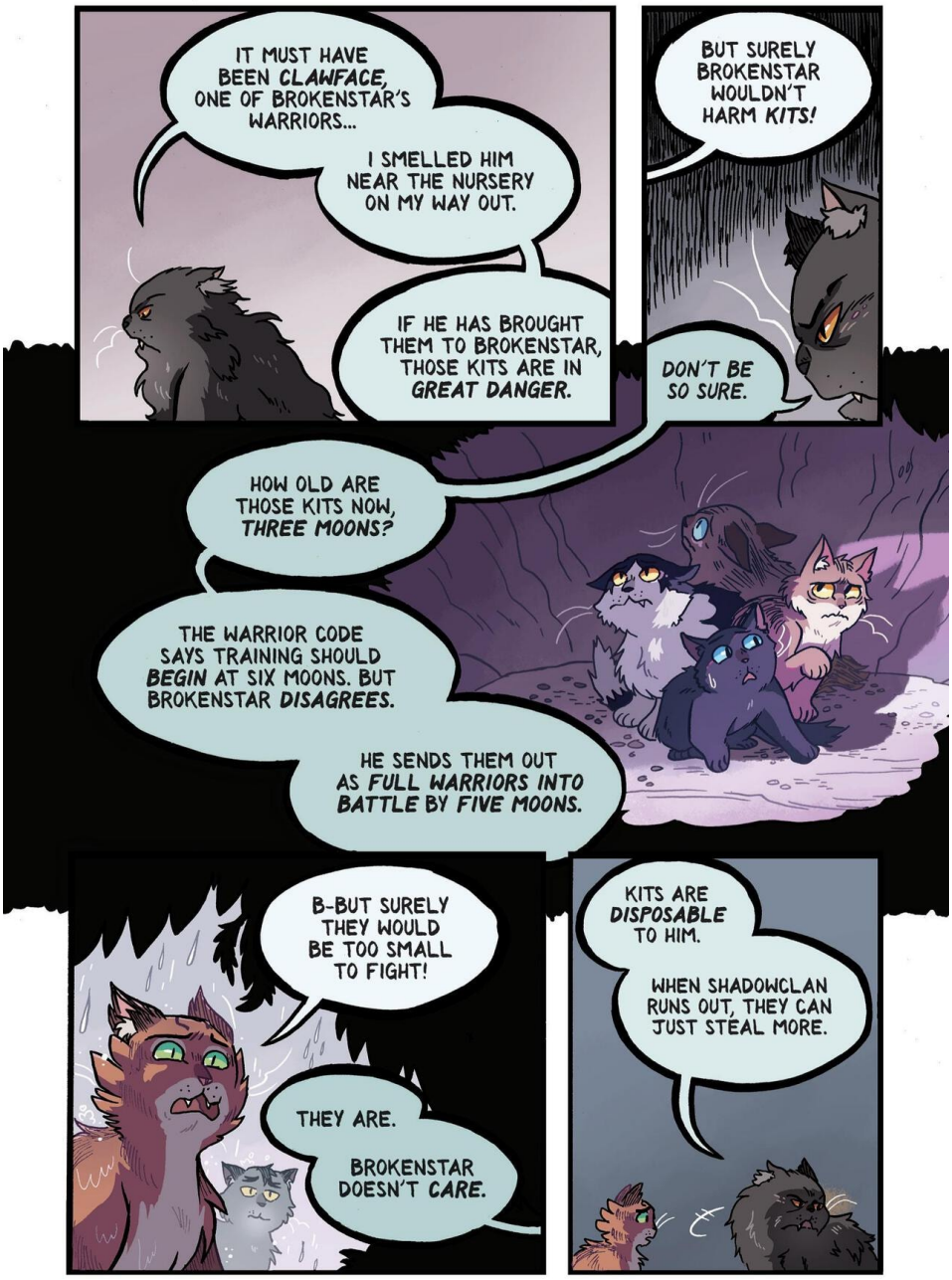
I KNEW THUNDERCLAN WOULD BLAME ME!
WHERE ARE THE KITS?!
WE SMELLED BLOOD!
DID YOU HURT THEM?!
I DON'T HAVE THE KITS!

WHEN THEY WENT MISSING, I KNEW I WOULD BE BLAMED.
I SET OUT TO GET THEM BACK!

I SMELLED THE KITS' BLOOD TOO, SO I STOPPED...
...BUT THEY'RE NOT HERE.

WHAT?!
I DON'T HAVE THEM!

THEN WHY DID YOU KILL SPOTTEDLEAF?
SPOTTEDLEAF IS DEAD?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
HOW COULD I?
I LEFT AS SOON AS I HEARD FROSTFUR YOWLING.


IT MUST HAVE BEEN CLAWFACE, ONE OF BROKENSTAR'S WARRIORS...
I SMELLED HIM NEAR THE NURSERY ON MY WAY OUT.
IF HE HAS BROUGHT THEM TO BROKENSTAR, THOSE KITS ARE IN GREAT DANGER.
BUT SURELY BROKENSTAR WOULDN'T HARM KITS!
DON'T BE SO SURE.
HOW OLD ARE THOSE KITS NOW, THREE MOONS?
THE WARRIOR CODE SAYS TRAINING SHOULD BEGIN AT SIX MOONS. BUT BROKENSTAR DISAGREES.
HE SENDS THEM OUT AS FULL WARRIORS INTO BATTLE BY FIVE MOONS.
B-BUT SURELY THEY WOULD BE TOO SMALL TO FIGHT!
THEY ARE.
BROKENSTAR DOESN'T CARE.
KITS ARE DISPOSABLE TO HIM.
WHEN SHADOWCLAN RUNS OUT, THEY CAN JUST STEAL MORE.

HE EVEN KILLED KITS FROM OUR OWN CLAN.
HE KILLED THEM, AND...
...
AND HE BLAMED THEIR DEATHS ON ME.
HOW?
HE BROUGHT TWO APPRENTICES TO ME, ALREADY DEAD AND COVERED IN THE CLAW AND BITE MARKS OF A FULLY GROWN CAT.
BROKENSTAR MUST HAVE FOUGHT THEM HIMSELF.
THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO.
WHEN THE KITS' MOTHER SAW THEM, BROKENSTAR...
HE SAID HE HAD FOUND ME STANDING OVER THEIR DEAD BODIES.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HER THAT HE KILLED THEM?
I COULDN'T.

BROKENSTAR IS CLAN LEADER, AND HIS FATHER WAS THE NOBLE RAGGEDSTAR.
HIS WORD IS LAW.

AFTER THAT, WELL...
THE REST YOU ALREADY KNOW.

THAT'S WHY I CAN'T GO BACK TO BLUESTAR WITHOUT THOSE KITS.

THEN WE'LL RESCUE THE KITS TOGETHER.
TONIGHT.

THE STORM IS OVER, SO THUNDERCLAN'S PATROL WILL BE HERE SOON.
MAYBE THEY CAN HELP.
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND SOME AID FROM WITHIN SHADOWCLAN.
NOT ALL CATS SUPPORT BROKENSTAR.
MOST FIGHT OUT OF FEAR.

THE ELDERS WERE EXILED FROM CAMP AND FORCED TO HUNT FOR THEMSELVES...
THEY MIGHT HELP US, TOO.

GATHER WHO YOU CAN, AND MEET US AT THE DEAD ASH!
UNDERSTOOD.

DO YOU REALLY THINK SHE'LL COME BACK?
ARE WE DOING THE RIGHT THING?

IF WE ARE, WE'RE HEROES AND THE KITS ARE SAVED...
IF NOT, WE ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD.
THAT'S COMFORTING!

WHITESTORM!
FIREPAW?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
BLUESTAR SENT ME!

AH, I SEE...
SHE SAID WE WOULD FIND A FRIEND HERE.

IS TIGERCLAW WITH YOU?
NO.

BLUESTAR INSISTED HE STAY AND GUARD THE CAMP.

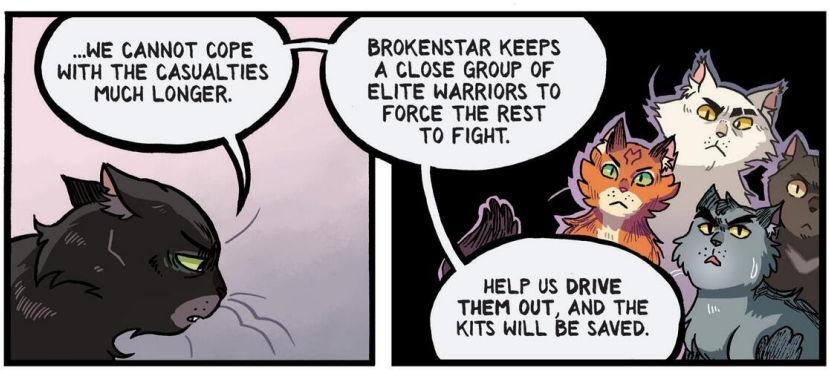
I NEED YOUR HELP.
I'M GOING INTO THE SHADOWCLAN CAMP TO RESCUE THE KITS.
WILL YOU COME?
OF COURSE!

CAN YOU LEAD US THERE, FIREPAW?
NO, BUT...

...YELLOWFANG WILL.
SHE'S GOING TO HELP US.
B-BUT...
I FOUND HER, AND WE TALKED...
I'M CERTAIN SHE DIDN'T TAKE THE KITS OR KILL SPOTTEDLEAF.
I BELIEVE YOU, FIREPAW.
NOD!
LEAD ON.
ANY SIGN OF YELLOWFANG AND THE SHADOWCLAN ELDERS?
NOT YET...
SHE'LL BE HERE.
HEH.

WELL SAID, FIREPAW!
SHADOWCLAN!
...THUNDERCLAN.
WE HAVE COME TO HELP YOU RECOVER YOUR STOLEN KITS.

NIGHTPELT, RIGHT?
WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?
OUR CLAN IS SUFFERING UNDER BROKENSTAR.
HE HAS BROKEN THE WARRIOR CODE AND IS DRIVING OUR CLAN TO RUIN.
OUR KITS, OUR ELDERS, ANY CAT TOO SICK TO OBEY...


...WE CANNOT COPE WITH THE CASUALTIES MUCH LONGER.
BROKENSTAR KEEPS A CLOSE GROUP OF ELITE WARRIORS TO FORCE THE REST TO FIGHT.
HELP US DRIVE THEM OUT, AND THE KITS WILL BE SAVED.

THINGS WERE DIFFERENT UNDER RAGGEDSTAR, YOU KNOW.
IF ONLY HE HAD LIVED LONGER...
ENOUGH REMINISCING.
THE SHADOWCLAN WARRIORS WILL LEAD ME INTO THE CAMP AS A PRISONER, AS A DISTRACTION.
RIGHT.
WHEN BROKENSTAR AND HIS INNER GUARD COME OUT OF THEIR DENS...
I'LL GIVE THE SIGNAL TO ATTACK.
YELLOWFANG...

YOWWWL!!!
THE SIGNAL!

HISSSS
GET OUT OF HERE!
BAT!
YOU'RE TOO SMALL FOR THIS FIGHT.
FIREPAW, LOOK OUT!!
IT'S CLAWFACE!!

SPOTTEDLEAF'S KILLER!
HISSS!!
FIREPAW, NO!
THUNDERCLAN WARRIORS ONLY KILL WHEN WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!
LET HIM GO.
BROKENSTAR, YOUR WARRIORS ARE FLEEING!
GIVE UP!
heh... heh... YELLOWFANG...

I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D BE HARDER TO KILL...
...THAN MY FATHER!
NO...
...YOU...
THAT'S RIGHT!
HISS!
RAGGEDSTAR WAS WEAK! HE DESERVED TO DIE, SO I KILLED HIM!
JUST LIKE THOSE KITS!
I SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOU TOO, WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE.
IT SEEMS I'VE INHERITED SOME OF RAGGEDSTAR'S SOFTNESS, EH?

YOWWLL!!
hehhh...
...DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME, LITTLE APPRENTICE.

HHHH
I'VE SHARED DREAMS WITH STARCLAN.
YOU WOULD HAVE TO KILL ME...
HHHHHH
NINE TIMES OVER BEFORE I JOIN THEM.
HHHH
DO YOU REALLY HAVE THE STOMACH FOR THAT?

MAYBE HE DOESN'T...

...BUT AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE, BROKENSTAR...
WE DO.

THIS ISN'T OVER, APPRENTICE!!
LET HIM AND HIS WARRIORS GO.
SHADOWCLAN WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP THEM IF THEY COME BACK.
NOD!
FIREPAW!
LOOK! WE FOUND THE KITS!
fire-paw!
Hi!

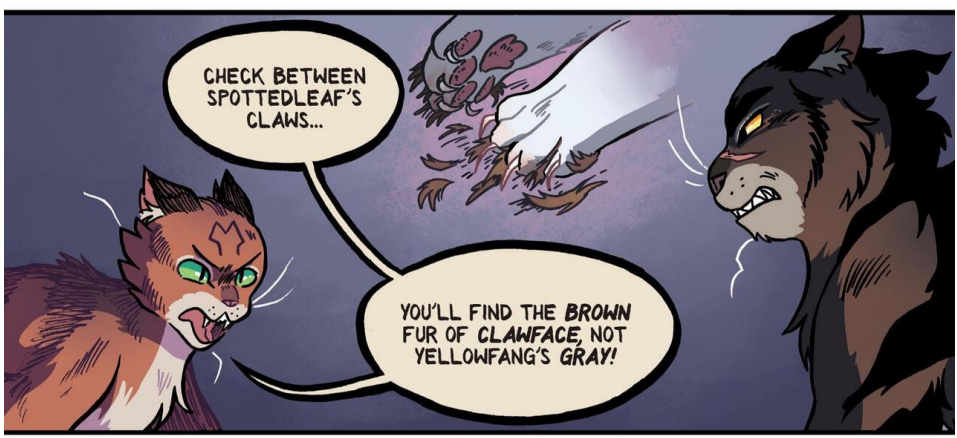
THUNDERCLAN, YOU HELPED SHADOWCLAN RID ITSELF OF A BRUTAL AND DANGEROUS LEADER.
IT IS TIME YOU LEFT OUR CAMP SO WE CAN BEGIN TO REBUILD OURSELVES.
OF COURSE.
ON BEHALF OF THUNDERCLAN, HUNT IN PEACE FOR ONE MOON WHILE YOU DO.
AND YOU, YELLOWFANG?
WILL YOU RETURN WITH US, OR STAY HERE WITH YOUR OLD CLANMATES?

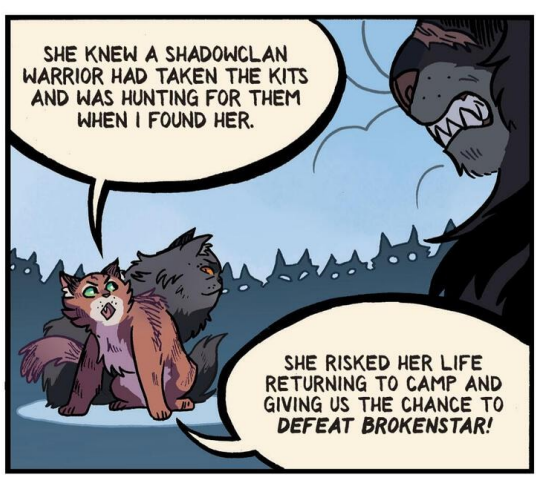
YOU'RE GOING TO NEED A *MEDICINE CAT.*
BESIDES...
SHADOWCLAN IS *NOT* THE CLAN I ONCE KNEW.
THUNDERCLAN IS MY HOME, NOW.

MY KITS!
OH, THANK STARCLAN!
WELL DONE, WHITESTORM.
THUNDERCLAN HONORS YOU.
THANK YOU, BLUESTAR.
BUT IT'S THANKS TO FIREPAW THAT WE WERE ABLE TO FIND THEM!
GOOD WORK, FIREPAW.
SNARL!

WHY DID YOU BRING BACK THE TRAITOR?!

YELLOWFANG IS LOYAL TO THUNDERCLAN.
SHE HELPED US RECOVER THE KITS, AND I CAN PROVE SHE DIDN'T KILL SPOTTEDLEAF!


CHECK BETWEEN SPOTTEDLEAF'S CLAWS...
YOU'LL FIND THE BROWN FUR OF CLAWFACE, NOT YELLOWFANG'S GRAY!


SHE KNEW A SHADOWCLAN WARRIOR HAD TAKEN THE KITS AND WAS HUNTING FOR THEM WHEN I FOUND HER.
SHE RISKED HER LIFE RETURNING TO CAMP AND GIVING US THE CHANCE TO DEFEAT BROKENSTAR!

IT'S TRUE!
YELLOWFANG IS A FRIEND.

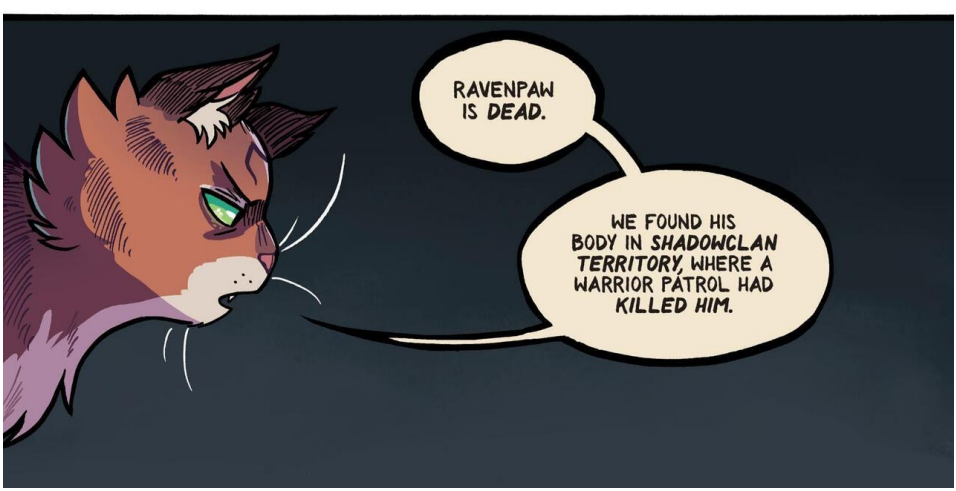
I AM GLAD TO HEAR IT.

YELLOWFANG.
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO REPLACE SPOTTEDLEAF AS OUR MEDICINE CAT.
WOULD YOU DO THE CLAN THIS HONOR?

YES, BLUESTAR. THANK YOU.
WAIT--

WHAT HAPPENED TO RAVENPAW, MY APPRENTICE?

STRANGE THAT HE DISAPPEARED ALONG WITH BROKENSTAR--
RAVENPAW WAS NOT A TRAITOR.


RAVENPAW IS DEAD.
WE FOUND HIS BODY IN SHADOWCLAN TERRITORY, WHERE A WARRIOR PATROL HAD KILLED HIM.

I --
I NEVER SAID HE WAS A TRAITOR!

RAVENPAW MIGHT HAVE MADE A FINE WARRIOR ONE DAY.

TRULY, HIS LOSS IS FELT BY US ALL!
Poor Tigerclaw!
what a shame...!
EMPTY WORDS...

WE WILL MISS RAVENPAW, BUT WE MUST WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW TO MOURN HIM.
FIRST, ANOTHER RITUAL MUST BE PERFORMED.

FIREPAW AND GRAYPAW, YOU HAVE BOTH SHOWN GREAT COURAGE TONIGHT.
WHITESTORM, DID THEY FIGHT WELL?
LIKE WARRIORS, BLUESTAR.

I, BLUESTAR, LEADER OF THUNDERCLAN, CALL UPON MY WARRIOR ANCESTORS TO LOOK UPON THESE TWO APPRENTICES.
THEY HAVE BOTH TRAINED HARD TO UNDERSTAND AND UPHOLD YOUR NOBLE CODE.
I COMMEND THEM TO YOU AS WARRIORS IN THEIR TURN.
FIREPAW, GRAYPAW...
DO YOU PROMISE TO UPHOLD THE WARRIOR CODE AND TO PROTECT AND DEFEND THIS CLAN, EVEN AT THE COST OF YOUR LIFE?
I DO.
I DO!

THEN BY THE POWER OF STARCLAN...
...I GIVE YOU YOUR WARRIOR NAMES...
GRAYPAW, YOU WILL BE KNOWN AS GRAYSTRIPE.
AND FIREPAW, YOU WILL BE KNOWN AS FIREHEART.
I AM PROUD TO HAVE YOU AS MY WARRIOR HERE IN THUNDERCLAN.
SERVE US WELL, YOUNG ONE.
FIREHEART!
GRAYSTRIPE!
GRAYSTRIPE!
FIREHEART!

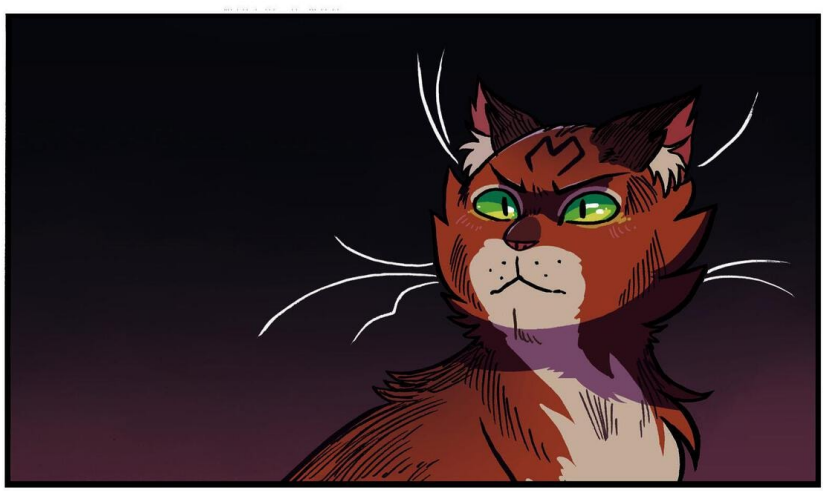
IT IS ALMOST MOONHIGH.
IN THE TRADITION OF OUR ANCESTORS, FIREHEART AND GRAYSTRIPE MUST SIT VIGIL UNTIL DAWN, GUARDING THE CAMP ALONE WHILE WE SLEEP.

CONGRATS.
YEAH, GREAT JOB...

EVEN THOUGH WE'VE BEEN APPRENTICES LONGER.
DUSTPAW, SANDPAW...

tch!
WHATEVER...
WHAT'S GOT THEIR WHISKERS TWISTED?

THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A SILENT VIGIL.



DON'T THINK YOU CAN OUTWIT ME, KITTYPET.
I'LL BE WATCHING YOU...

PART THREE:
GRAYSTRIPE'S SECRET

CATS OF ALL CLANS...
...WELCOME!
OUR FIRST GATHERING AS WARRIORS!
TONIGHT, THUNDERCLAN BRINGS OUR NEW MEDICINE CAT, YELLOWFANG...
ALONG WITH TWO NEW WARRIORS, FIREHEART AND GRAYSTRIPE.
Fireheart, that's us!
SHADOWCLAN BRINGS NEWS AS WELL.

I, NIGHTPELT, HAVE TAKEN OVER LEADERSHIP OF SHADOWCLAN.
OUR FORMER LEADER, BROKENSTAR, BROKE THE WARRIOR CODE.
WE WERE FORCED TO CHASE HIM OUT.
NO MENTION OF THUNDERCLAN'S HELP, HUH?
THE SPIRITS OF STARCLAN HAVE SPOKEN TO OUR MEDICINE CAT, RUNNINGNOSE, AND CHOSEN ME AS THE NEW LEADER.
NOD
TOMORROW NIGHT...
HE AND I WILL MAKE THE JOURNEY TO MOTHERMOUTH TO SIT VIGIL AT THE MOONSTONE.
AFTERWARD, I WILL BE KNOWN AS NIGHTSTAR.
BUT WHERE IS BROKENSTAR NOW, THEN?

I THINK WE CAN ASSUME HE HAS LEFT THE FOREST.
IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR HIM TO RETURN.

I HOPE SO!

STEP.
THANK YOU, NIGHTPELT.
ON THAT MATTER...

...WHILE BROKENSTAR WAS LEADER, I ALLOWED SHADOWCLAN TO HUNT IN OUR RIVER.
NOW THAT HE IS GONE, THAT AGREEMENT NO LONGER STANDS. THE PREY IN THE RIVER BELONGS TO RIVERCLAN ALONE.
HISS!

SHADOWCLAN STILL HAS THE SAME NEEDS AS BEFORE!
WE HAVE MANY MOUTHS TO FEED, CROOKEDSTAR!

NIGHTPELT.

YOU HAVE JUST DRIVEN OUT YOUR LEADER, AND MANY OF YOUR STRONGEST WARRIORS...

...ARE YOU SO CONFIDENT YOU CAN MAKE THESE DEMANDS?
FINE.
WE DON'T NEED YOUR FISH.
AFTER ALL...
...WE HAVE ALL OF THE MOORS TO HUNT IN, NOW THAT WINDCLAN IS GONE.
THAT'S TRUE!
WINDCLAN'S ABSENCE MEANS MORE PREY FOR US ALL--
NO.
WINDCLAN MUST RETURN.

WHY?
CROOKEDSTAR IS RIGHT.
MURMUR
MURMUR
IF WE SPLIT THE TERRITORY, IT'LL MEAN MORE FOOD FOR OUR KITS!
THE FOREST NEEDS FOUR CLANS.
JUST AS WE HAVE FOURTREES, AND FOUR SEASONS, STARCLAN HAS GIVEN US FOUR CLANS.
WINDCLAN MUST BE BROUGHT HOME.
CROOKEDSTAR.
RIVERCLAN'S HUNTING GROUNDS ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR RICHNESS IN PREY AND BOUNTIFUL FISH IN THE RIVER.
ARE YOU REALLY SO DESPERATE?
AND YOU, NIGHTPELT...
THUNDERCLAN HELPED YOU DRIVE OUT BROKENSTAR BECAUSE OF HIS GREED, NOT TO SUPPORT IT.

VERY WELL, BLUESTAR...
...
SHADOWCLAN WILL ALLOW WINDCLAN TO RETURN.
TWO OF US HAVE AGREED, THEN...
WINDCLAN MUST BE FOUND AND BROUGHT HOME.
UNTIL THEN, NO CLAN SHOULD HUNT IN THEIR TERRITORY.

HISS!
WHAT A GATHERING!
CAN YOU BELIEVE NIGHTPELT AND CROOKEDSTAR?

...HEY, IS SOMETHING WRONG?
WELL...

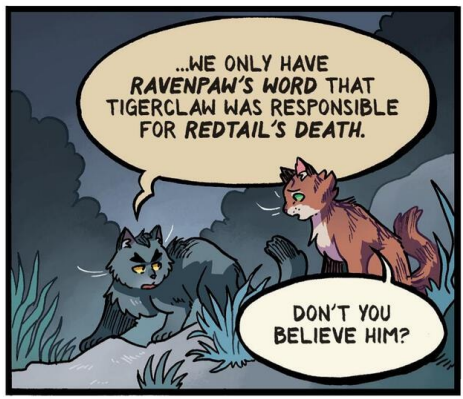
...IT'S BLUESTAR.
I WAS HOPING TO TALK TO HER ALONE, BUT TIGERCLAW'S ALWAYS AROUND.

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?
I NEED TO TELL HER...

...I HAVE TO TELL HER WHERE RAVENPAW IS, AND WARN HER ABOUT TIGERCLAW.

YOU PROMISED YOU'D TELL THE CLAN THAT RAVENPAW IS DEAD!

BLUESTAR NEEDS TO KNOW THE WHOLE STORY.
BUT...

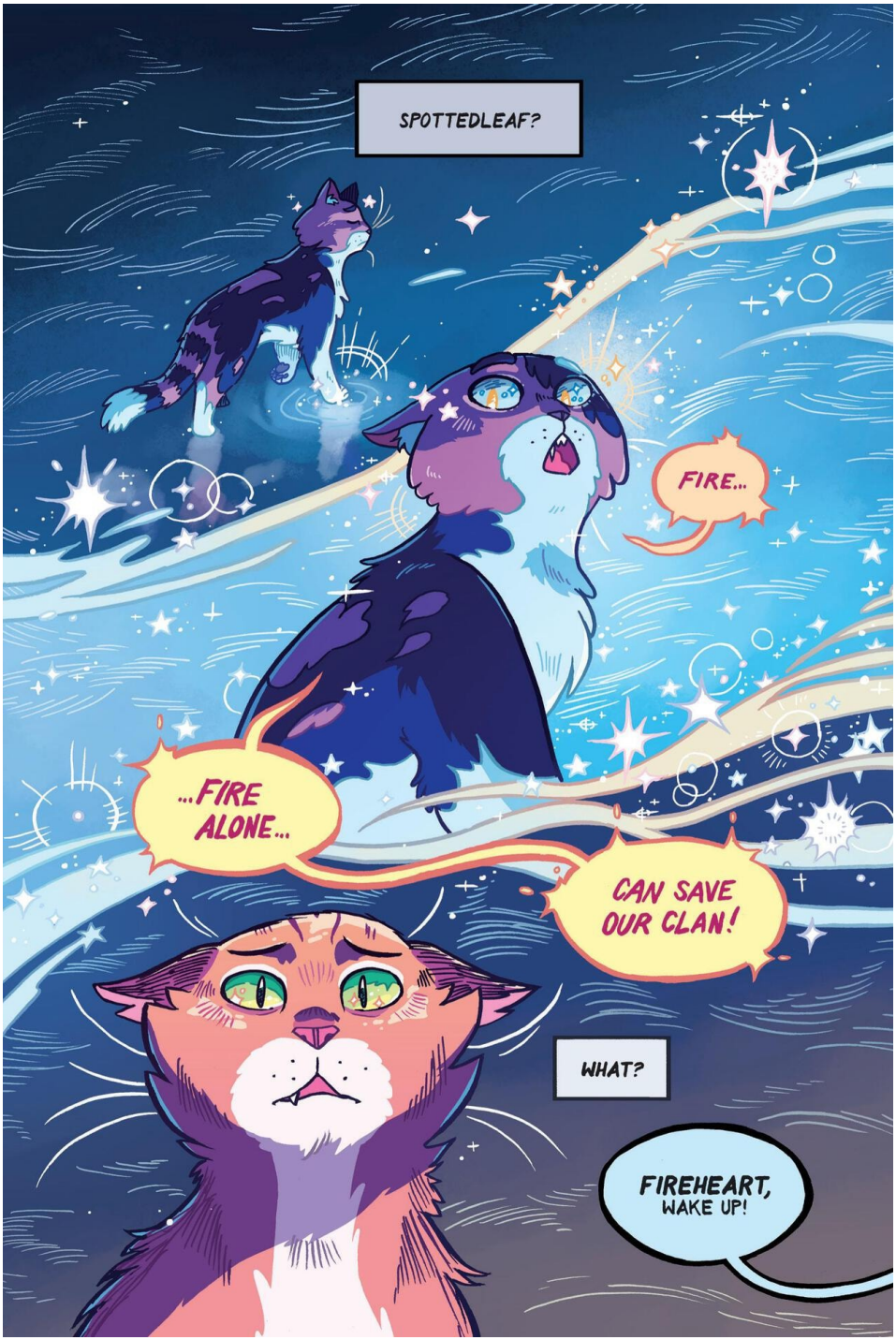

...WE ONLY HAVE RAVENPAW'S WORD THAT TIGERCLAW WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR REDTAIL'S DEATH.
DON'T YOU BELIEVE HIM?

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER I BELIEVE HIM...
...ACCUSING TIGERCLAW WITHOUT REAL EVIDENCE WILL CAUSE TROUBLE.

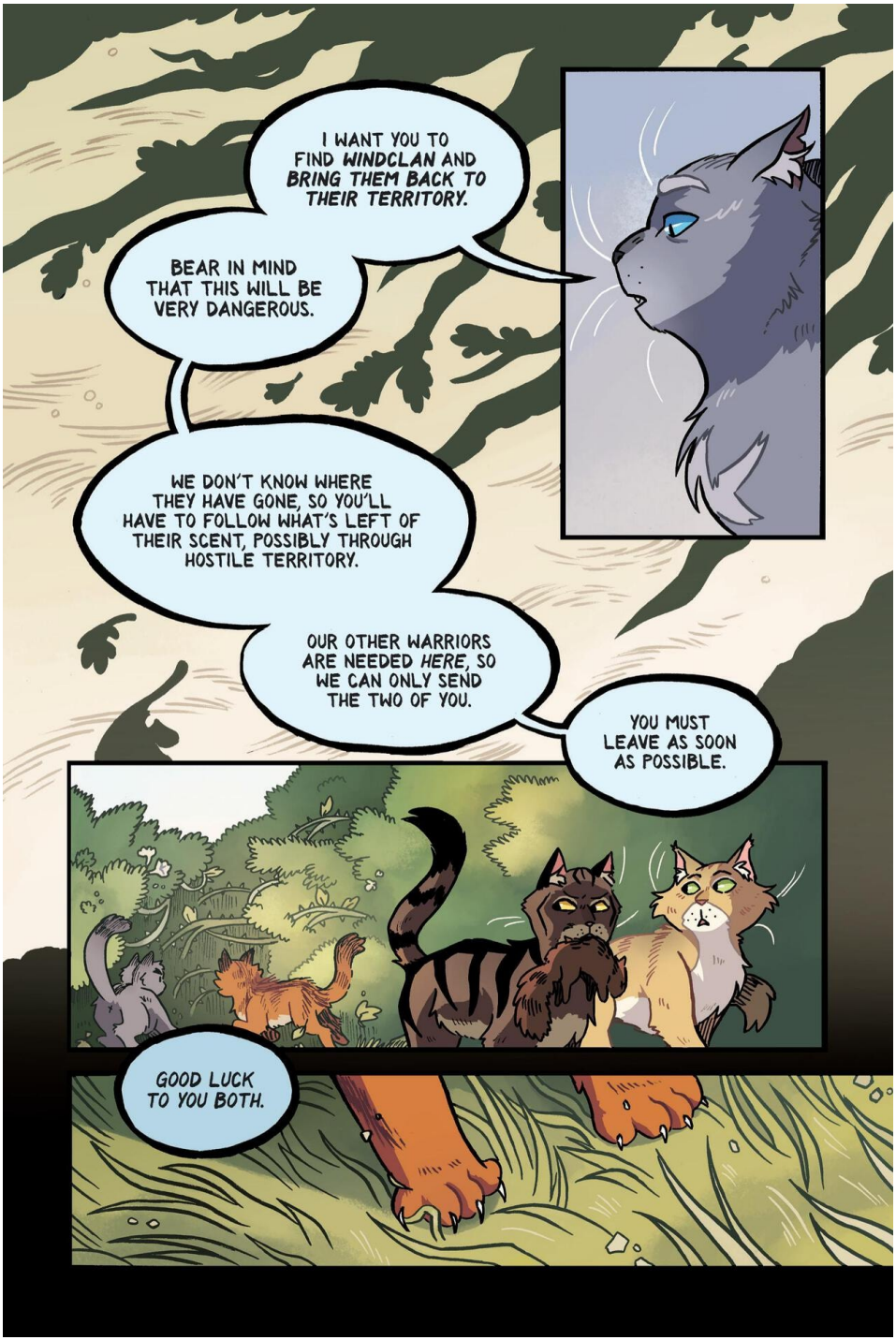
I'M JUST SAYING...
IF YOU DON'T HAVE PROOF, YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL, OKAY?

I KNOW RAVENPAW WASN'T LYING!

FIREHEART...
fire...

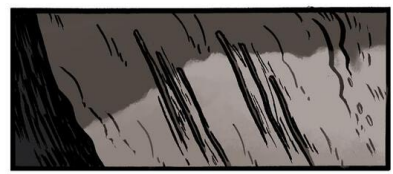

SPOTTEDLEAF?
FIRE...
...FIRE ALONE...
CAN SAVE OUR CLAN!
WHAT?
FIREHEART, WAKE UP!

WHY? WE'RE NOT ON A PATROL THIS MORNING...
IT'S BLUESTAR!
SHE WANTS TO SEE US IN HER DEN, NOW.
FIREHEART.
GRAYSTRIPE.
I HAVE AN IMPORTANT MISSION FOR YOU.


I WANT YOU TO FIND WINDCLAN AND BRING THEM BACK TO THEIR TERRITORY.
BEAR IN MIND THAT THIS WILL BE VERY DANGEROUS.
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY HAVE GONE, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO FOLLOW WHAT'S LEFT OF THEIR SCENT, POSSIBLY THROUGH HOSTILE TERRITORY.
OUR OTHER WARRIORS ARE NEEDED HERE, SO WE CAN ONLY SEND THE TWO OF YOU.
YOU MUST LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
GOOD LUCK TO YOU BOTH.

WHAT'S RIVERCLAN DOING OUT HERE?
shh!
DO YOU THINK RAVENPAW MADE IT TO BARLEY'S SAFELY?
WHY NOT?
WE MADE IT THIS FAR, AFTER ALL.
HERE!
THIS MUST BE WINDCLAN'S OLD CAMP!

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT AGAINST BROKENSTAR.



I FOUND THEIR SCENT.

THE *THUNDERPATH*...
WINDCLAN WENT *THIS WAY*.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S PAST THIS POINT?

NO.
NO CLAN CAT HAS *EVER* COME THIS FAR BEFORE.

NO CLAN CAT EXCEPT FOR *WINDCLAN*.

WHY WOULD WINDCLAN COME TO A PLACE LIKE *THIS*?
PROBABLY SO THAT EVEN ***BROKENSTAR*** WOULDN'T FOLLOW THEM.

C'MON...THE SCENT LEADS OVER HERE.

IT'S COMING FROM IN ***THERE***.

NOD!
PLIP!
PLIP!
HISS!
WINDCLAN!
THUNDERCLAN?

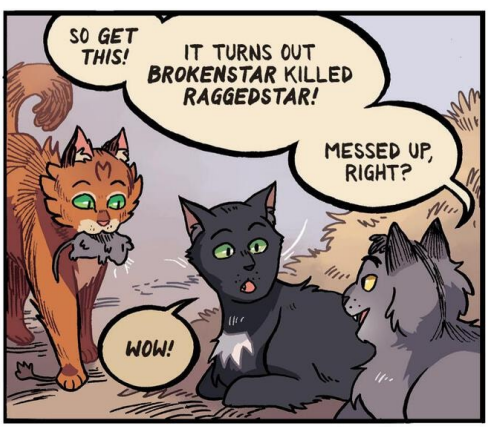
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WE CAME TO FIND YOU. BLUESTAR AND THE OTHER LEADERS WANT WINDCLAN TO RETURN HOME.
THAT TERRITORY IS NOT SAFE FOR MY CLAN ANYMORE.
She deserves it!
Queen Kitty
SHADOWCLAN HAS DRIVEN OUT BROKENSTAR. YOU MUST RETURN.

THIS IS GRAYSTRIPE, AND I AM FIREHEART.
FIREHEART...
THE NAME SUITS YOU.

I AM TALLSTAR, LEADER OF WINDCLAN.
THIS IS DEADFOOT, MY DEPUTY, AND ONEWHISKER, ONE OF MY WARRIORS.
TELL THEM IF YOU SEE ANY DANGER.
TALLSTAR, SHOULD WE TAKE SHELTER FOR THE NIGHT?
GRAYSTRIPE AND I KNOW A SAFE PLACE TO EAT AND REST...

THANK YOU FOR LETTING US STAY HERE, BARLEY!
OH, IT'S NO TROUBLE! PLENTY OF MICE TO GO AROUND!
THANK YOU FOR SENDING ME RAVENPAW.
HE'S TURNING INTO A FINE RATTER!

IS HE HAPPY?
WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM YOURSELF?
WINK!


SO GET THIS!
IT TURNS OUT BROKENSTAR KILLED RAGGEDSTAR!
MESSED UP, RIGHT?
WOW!

ENOUGH CLAN TALK.
TELL US ABOUT FARM LIFE!

MAYBE RAVENPAW IS ACTUALLY BETTER OFF OUTSIDE OF CLAN LIFE.

I GUESS EACH CAT REALLY DOES HAVE THEIR OWN DESTINY.

BUT RAVENPAW HAD TO LEAVE THUNDERCLAN FOR A REASON. I CAN'T FORGET WHAT HE WITNESSED...

MY CLAN IS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP.
BOTH OF YOU ARE WARRIORS *WORTHY* OF *STARCLAN.*

BUT NOW THAT WINDCLAN HAS RETURNED TO *OUR* HOME, IT'S TIME YOU RETURNED TO *YOURS.*

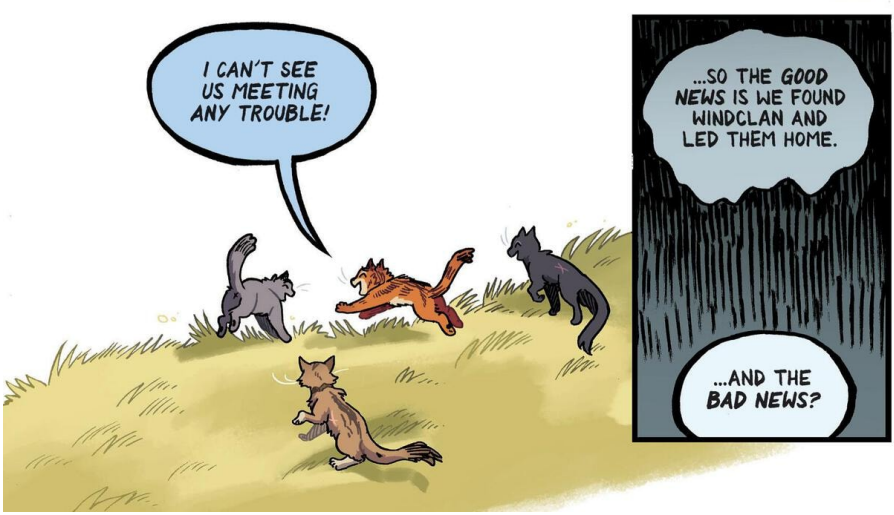
DEADFOOT AND *ONEWHISKER* WILL ESCORT YOU TO FOURTREES, IN CASE OF HOSTILE HUNTING PARTIES.
THANK YOU, TALLSTAR.

TELL BLUESTAR THAT WINDCLAN *WON'T FORGET* THAT IT WAS *THUNDERCLAN* WHO BROUGHT US HOME.

WHERE DID ONEWHISKER GO?
OH, I THINK HE THOUGHT WE SHOULD SHARE A QUICK MEAL...

YOU KNOW, IT WOULD BE *FASTER* TO GET HOME IF WE FOLLOWED THE RIVER.
CHOMP!
BUT WON'T THAT MEAN GOING INTO *RIVERCLAN TERRITORY*?

TALLSTAR ORDERED US TO TAKE YOU TO *FOURTREES*.
WE'LL ONLY BE IN RIVERCLAN FOR A *BLINK*!


I CAN'T SEE US MEETING ANY TROUBLE!
...SO THE *GOOD NEWS* IS WE FOUND WINDCLAN AND LED THEM HOME.
...AND THE *BAD NEWS*?

...A RIVERCLAN PATROL SPOTTED US AND CHASED US OUT.
I'M NOT MUCH OF A SWIMMER...
AH.

THAT WAS FOOLISH, BUT YOU'VE DONE WELL TO HELP WINDCLAN.

STILL, WE SHOULD PREPARE FOR MORE CONFLICT WITH RIVERCLAN.
WE'LL NEED MORE WARRIORS.

FIREHEART, GRAYSTRIPE.

I THINK IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO BECOME MENTORS.

THIS MOONHIGH, WE GATHER TO NAME THREE NEW THUNDERCLAN APPRENTICES...
SWIFTKIT, YOU WILL BE APPRENTICED TO LONGTAIL, AND KNOWN AS SWIFTPAW.
BRACKENKIT, YOU WILL BE APPRENTICED TO GRAYSTRIPE, AND KNOWN AS BRACKENPAW.
AND CINDERKIT, YOU WILL BE APPRENTICED TO FIREHEART, AND KNOWN AS CINDERPAW.
DON'T WORRY!
YOU'RE DOING FINE.
LONGTAIL SURE DIDN'T WELCOME ME LIKE THAT WHEN I JOINED THUNDERCLAN.

I FEEL SORRY FOR CINDERPAW...
IMAGINE BEING A CLAN CAT AND HAVING A KITTYPET FOR YOUR MENTOR!
...
...right, Sandpaw?
KNOCK IT OFF, DUSTPAW.
CINDERPAW IS ENERGETIC AND ENTHUSIASTIC...
VRRR
...REALLY, REALLY ENTHUSIASTIC.

I CAN TELL TIGERCLAW IS WAITING FOR ME TO FAIL, BUT...

...WHEN CINDERPAW LOOKS AT ME, I CAN SEE THE PRIDE IN HER EYES AT BEING MY APPRENTICE.

WAS THIS WHAT I LOOKED LIKE WHEN I WAS AN APPRENTICE?

FIREHEART!
Good morning, Graystripe.

What is our assignment today?
HUNTING!

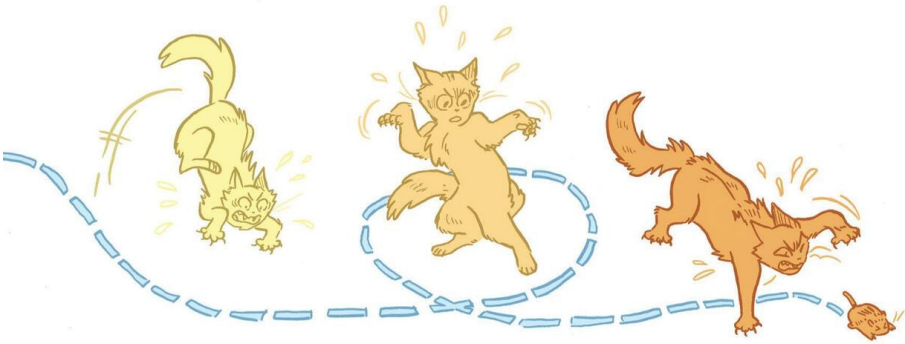
WHERE ARE WE HUNTING?
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO CATCH?
I WANT TO CATCH A VOLE!

SUNNINGROCKS, TO CATCH WHATEVER WE FIND.
IT'S NEARLY LEAF-BARE, SO WE NEED ALL THE PREY WE CAN CATCH!
PAF!

DO YOU HEAR THAT?
LISTEN. WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?

RSTL

OVER THERE!!
SQUEE!!



I THINK THAT ONE HEARD YOU COMING...

LET'S TRY OVER BY THE RIVER.

WOW!
IT'S TOTALLY FROZEN!
shh!
WOW!!

DO YOU THINK THE ICE IS SAFE TO WALK ON?
PROBABLY NOT.
HUH?
TPT!
CH-CH-
CRACK!
GRAYSTRIPE!!

GRAYSTRIPE!!
THE CURRENT IS TOO FAST AND TOO STRONG FOR ME TO JUMP IN!
I CAN'T HELP HIM...!

YOU ABSOLUTE FISH-BRAIN!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN RIVERCLAN TERRITORY?!

COUGH COUGH

uh...

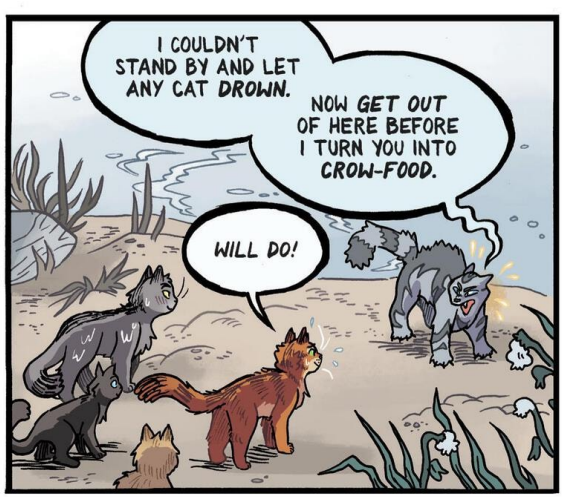
...DROWNING?

SNRK!
GRAYSTRIPE!

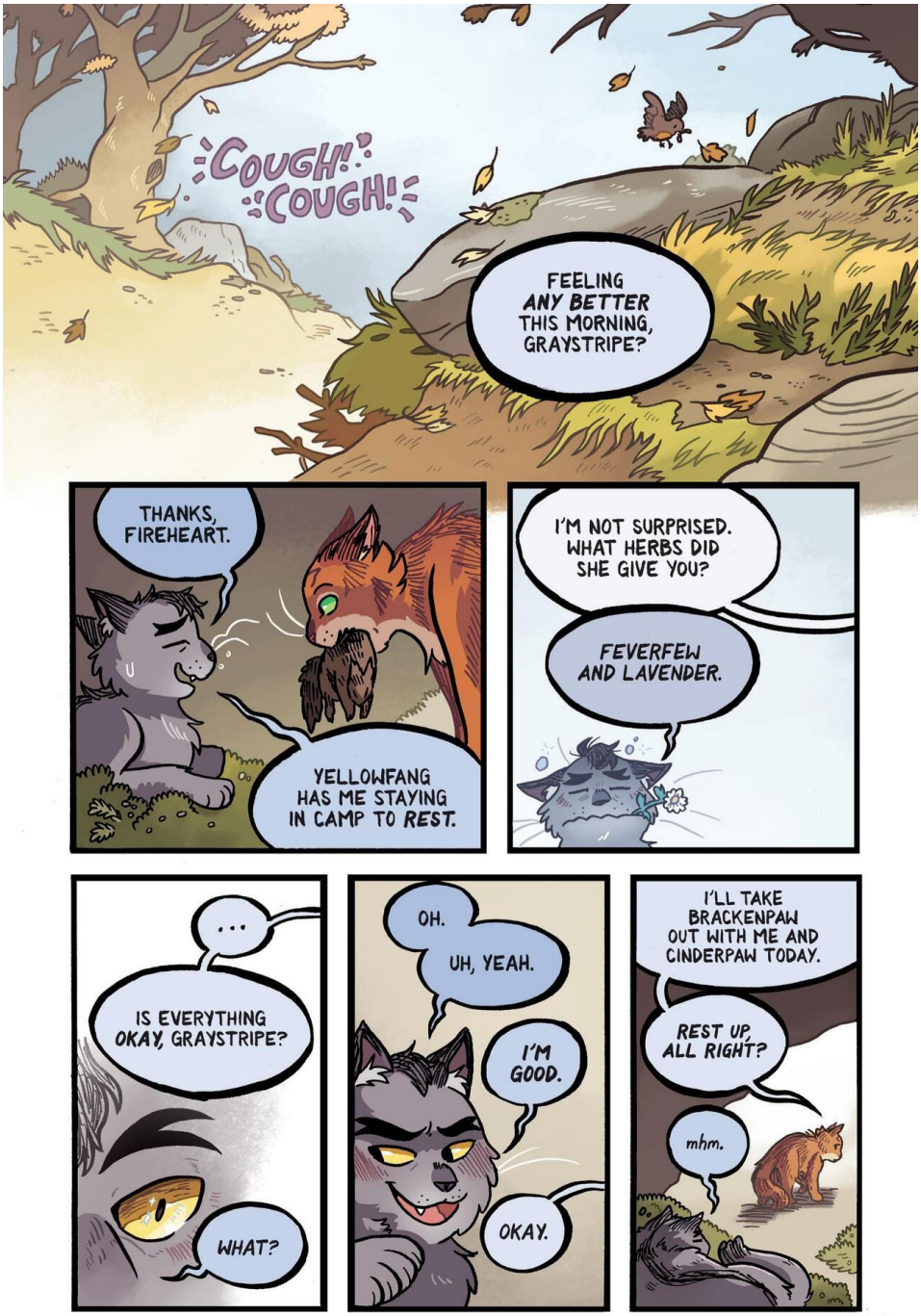
ARE YOU OKAY?!
I'M OKAY, THANKS TO...?

SILVERSTREAM.
I'M GRAYSTRIPE.

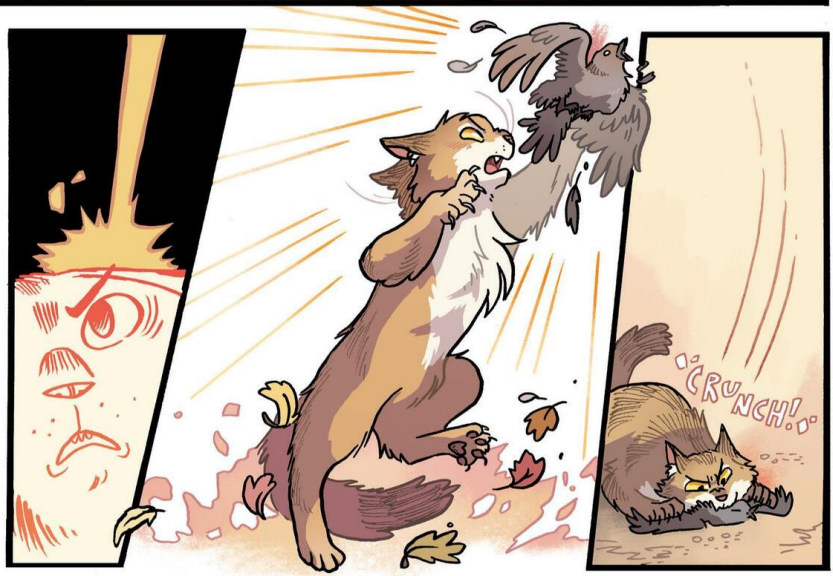
THANK YOU, SILVERSTREAM.
I'D BE LOST WITHOUT THIS FURBALL.

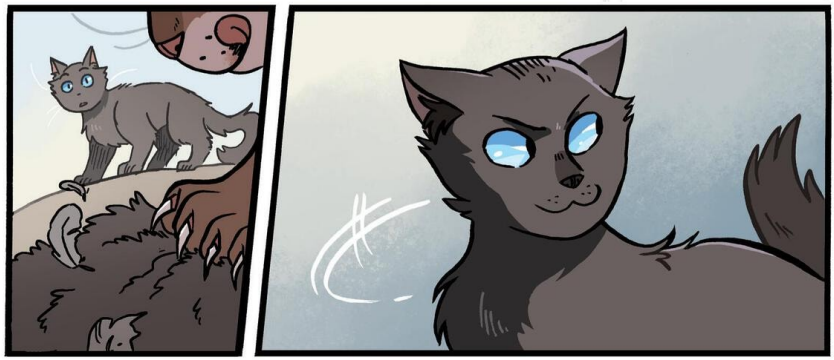

I COULDN'T STAND BY AND LET ANY CAT DROWN.
NOW GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I TURN YOU INTO CROW-FOOD.
WILL DO!

THANKS AGAIN!


COUGH! COUGH!
FEELING ANY BETTER THIS MORNING, GRAYSTRIPE?
THANKS, FIREHEART.
YELLOWFANG HAS ME STAYING IN CAMP TO REST.
I'M NOT SURPRISED. WHAT HERBS DID SHE GIVE YOU?
FEVERFEW AND LAVENDER.
...
IS EVERYTHING OKAY, GRAYSTRIPE?
WHAT?
OH.
UH, YEAH.
I'M GOOD.
OKAY.
I'LL TAKE BRACKENPAW OUT WITH ME AND CINDERPAW TODAY.
REST UP, ALL RIGHT?
mhm.

CINDERPAW, BRACKENPAW, COME ON.
YOU'RE WITH ME TODAY.
WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW?
More hunting?
I WAS THINKING STALKING LESSONS.
NOT THE OLD "RABBIT SMELLS YOU, MOUSE FEELS YOU" SPEECH AGAIN...
THE FUNDAMENTALS ARE IMPORTANT, CINDERPAW!
OKAY, NOW WE CAN GO HUNTING!


CRUNCH!



TPT!

SQUEE!

WELL DONE, BOTH OF YOU!
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE TAKE ALL THIS PREY BACK TO CAMP AND BRING SOME TO GRAYSTRIPE?
MMPH!

WHERE IS HE?! GRAYSTRIPE'S SUPPOSED TO BE RESTING IN THE WARRIORS' DEN!
GRAYSTRIPE!
THERE YOU ARE!
WHERE DID YOU GO TODAY?
TIGERCLAW WAS ASKING AROUND AND I COVERED FOR YOU, BUT...
I JUST WANTED SOME PEACE AND QUIET, OKAY?
PF!
THANKS FOR COVERING FOR ME.

HMMM...

YES, THAT IS SUSPICIOUS.
I'M HIS BEST FRIEND! WHAT ISN'T HE TELLING ME?
MAYBE HE HAS A GOOD REASON FOR NOT TELLING YOU.
LOTS OF CATS HAVE SECRETS.
NOT GRAYSTRIPE.
NOT FROM ME.
Uh-huh.
BY THE WAY...
...THIS YARROW IS GREAT QUALITY.
WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?
CINDERPAW FOUND IT!
SHE SNIFFED IT OUT NEAR SUNNINGROCKS.
HER TRAINING IS COMING ALONG GREAT!

AND BRACKENPAW'S GOT A KEEN EYE FOR HUNTING...
HE REALLY IS A CREDIT TO GRAYSTRIPE.
YES, THANKS TO YOUR TRAINING.
GRAYSTRIPE MUST STILL BE SICK, RIGHT?
MAYBE THIS IS ALL IN MY HEAD.
REGARDLESS, YOUR BEST FRIEND IS WASTING ALL MY GOOD LAVENDER BY NOT FOCUSING ON GETTING BETTER.
COULD YOU GO LOOKING FOR SOME MORE FOR ME?
SANDPAW OUT THERE LOOKS BORED.
YAAAAAWN!!
WHY DON'T YOU ASK HER TO GO WITH YOU?

HEY, FIREHEART.
I JUST WANTED TO SAY...
THAT I'M SORRY FOR THE WAY I TREATED YOU BEFORE.
AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR THUNDERCLAN...
...YOU'RE A WARRIOR THROUGH AND THROUGH.
...
THANKS, SANDPAW.
AREN'T YOU STILL MAD ABOUT--
YOU BECOMING A WARRIOR BEFORE ME AND DUSTPAW?
NOT ANYMORE.
I'M SURE BLUESTAR WILL GET TO US EVENTUALLY.
IN THE MEANTIME...
...C'MON, LET'S GO GET THOSE HERBS!

SURPRISE!

HA HA!
MOW!
HEH
MRRROW!!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!
GET OFF ME, FURBALL!
GRRR!!
F-FIREHEART!

ONEWHISKER?
IT'S SHADOWCLAN AND RIVERCLAN!
THEY'VE JOINED FORCES TO DRIVE WINDCLAN BACK OUT TO THE THUNDERPATH!
WE'RE OUTNUMBERED AND FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES, BUT TALLSTAR REFUSES TO BE CHASED OUT AGAIN!
THUNDERCLAN...
...WINDCLAN NEEDS YOUR HELP ONCE MORE!

IT IS JUST AS I FEARED.

WE MUST GO TO THEIR AID!

BLUESTAR, WE ARE LEAF-BARE WEAK!

WE HAVE ALREADY RISKED OURSELVES TO HELP WINDCLAN...
LET THEM TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES!

NO, BLUESTAR IS RIGHT.
IF SHADOWCLAN AND RIVERCLAN HAVE JOINED...

...THEN IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY LOOK GREEDILY TO OUR TERRITORY.
BETTER TO FIGHT NOW WITH WINDCLAN THAN LATER ALONE.
WELL SAID.

TIGERCLAW, I NEED YOU TO ORGANIZE TWO PATROLS TO SEND INTO BATTLE.
I WILL--
NOD!
BLUESTAR!

I WILL LEAD THE FIRST PATROL.

DARKSTRIPE.

LONGTAIL.

WHITESTORM, YOU'LL FOLLOW WITH THE REST...

WILLOWPELT, RUNNINGWIND, GRAYSTRIPE, AND MOUSEFUR.

DUSTPAW.

AND FIREHEART, YOU'RE WITH ME.

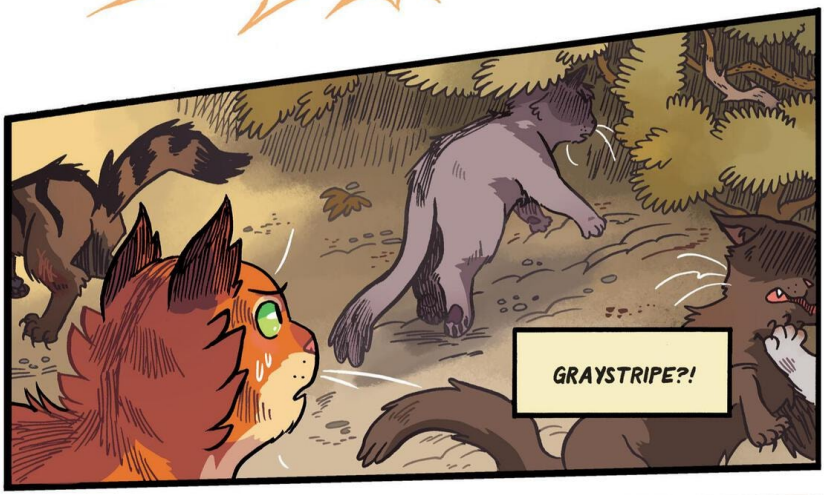
YOU!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
ONEWHISKER.
LEAD US TO THE WINDCLAN CAMP!

GRAYSTRIPE, ARE YOU FEELING WELL ENOUGH TO FIGHT?
YEAH, SURE.
BUT...
MAYBE RIVERCLAN HAS A GOOD REASON FOR DOING THIS?
WHAT?!
GRAYSTRIPE, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!
AFTER EVERYTHING WE WENT THROUGH TO HELP WINDCLAN!
YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT...
...I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ANYTHING.
FORGET IT, OKAY?

THE WINDCLAN CAMP.
I'M HEADING IN.
WHITESTORM, BE READY FOR MY SIGNAL.
NOD!

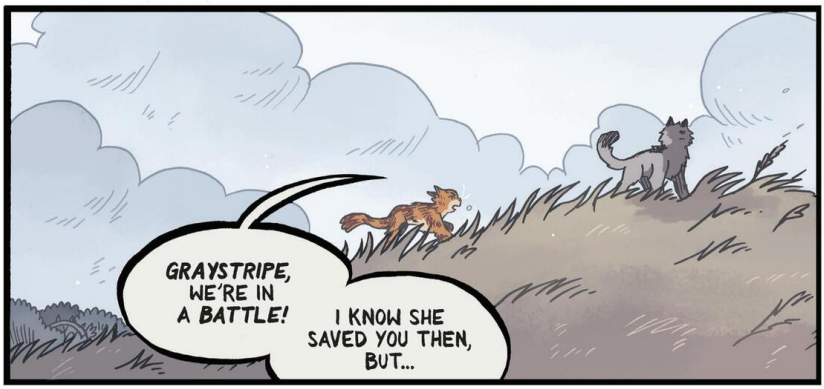
YOWWWL!
HISSS!!
THAT'S...
...THE RIVERCLAN CAT THAT SAVED GRAYSTRIPE!
SCRUFF
FIREHEART!
STOP!

NO...


GRAYSTRIPE?!

GRAYSTRIPE, WAIT!

KSH!


GRAYSTRIPE, WE'RE IN A BATTLE!
I KNOW SHE SAVED YOU THEN, BUT...

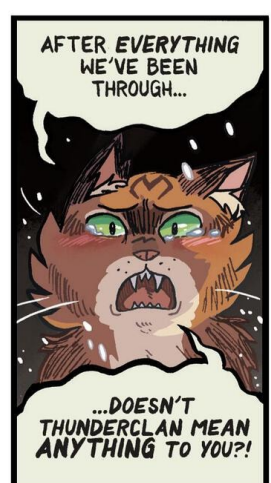
...THIS IS...

OH...
FIREHEART.

I COULDN'T LET YOU HURT HER BECAUSE...
SILVERSTREAM AND I...
ARE IN LOVE.

YOU...

YOU'RE FROM TWO WARRING CLANS!
IT'S AGAINST THE WARRIOR CODE!


AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH...
...DOESN'T THUNDERCLAN MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?!

WE--
WE CAN'T SETTLE THIS NOW!
YOU MAY NOT CARE ABOUT ANYONE BUT YOURSELF AND SILVERSTREAM...
HISSSS!
YOWLLL!!!
HISSS!
REE-

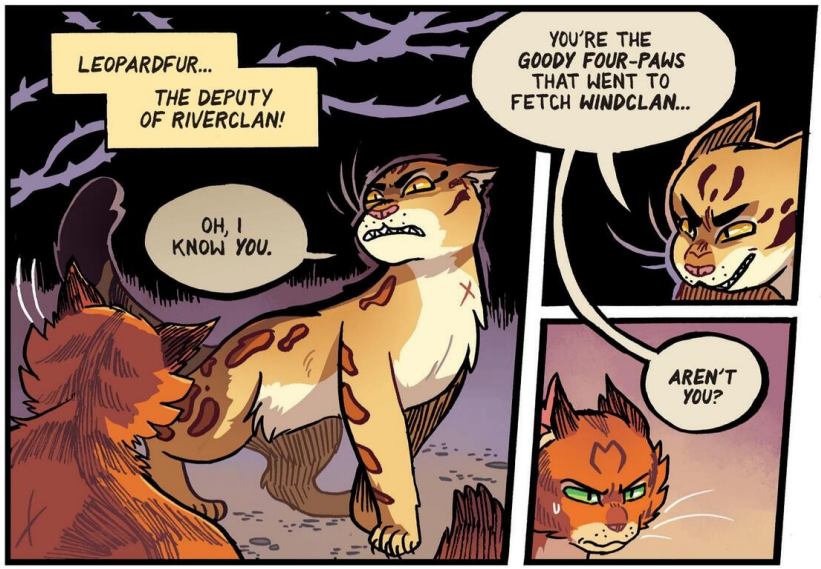
...BUT THERE'S A BATTLE GOING ON RIGHT NOW!

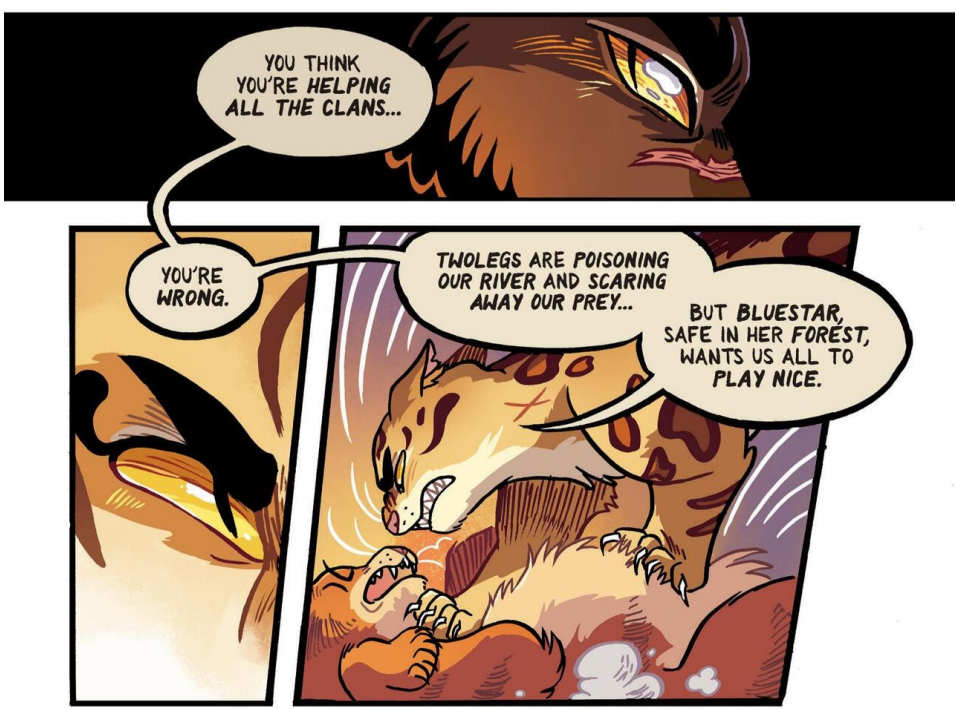
FIREHEART, WAIT!
AND OUR CLAN NEEDS US!

HISSS!
NIGHTSTAR!

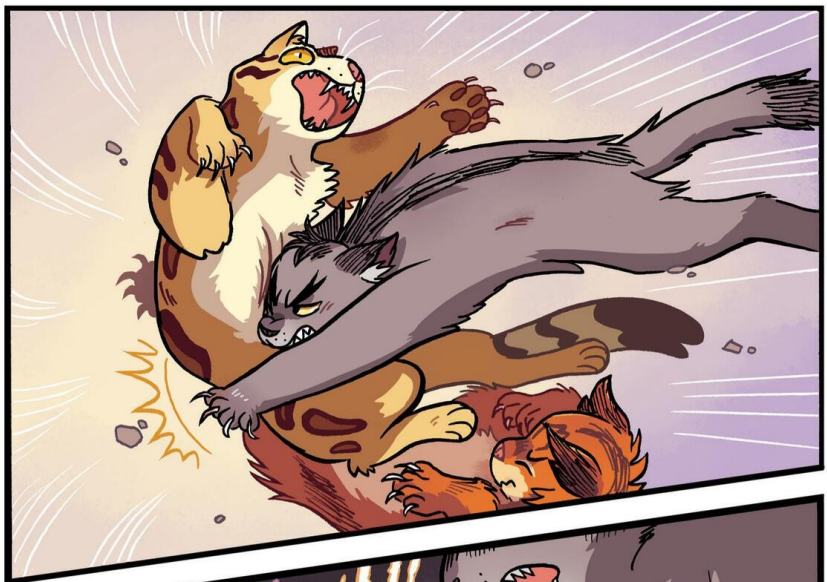
I HOPED YOU WERE GOING TO BRING SOME HONOR BACK TO SHADOWCLAN...
NGH!
BUT I CAN SEE THE COLD WIND OF YOUR TERRITORY HAS BLOWN OVER YOUR HEART AS WELL.

NOD
NOD
SNARL!!!


LEOPARDFUR...
THE DEPUTY OF RIVERCLAN!
OH, I KNOW YOU.
YOU'RE THE GOODY FOUR-PAWS THAT WENT TO FETCH WINDCLAN...
AREN'T YOU?


YOU THINK YOU'RE HELPING ALL THE CLANS...
YOU'RE WRONG.
TWOLEGS ARE POISONING OUR RIVER AND SCARING AWAY OUR PREY...
BUT BLUESTAR, SAFE IN HER FOREST, WANTS US ALL TO PLAY NICE.

AND YOU, HER MEDDLING KITTYPET...
TIGERCLAW!!
ARE GOING TO PAY!
HELP ME!!
TIGERCLAW...!



HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

YOU OKAY, FIREHEART?

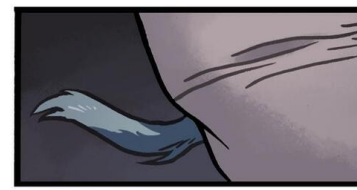
NOD!
SHKT!
hhhhh
hhhhhh
hhhhh
IT'S OVER, CROOKEDSTAR.
NOW GET OUT!

FIREHEART!
HOW WAS THE BATTLE?
WHAT HAPPENED?
DID YOU WIN?
YES, WE DEFENDED WINDCLAN.
WHOA!!
I NOTICED THE KITTYPET LET SOME RIVERCLAN CATS OFF EASY, OF COURSE.

YES...
YOU WERE QUITE SOFT ON THEM, WEREN'T YOU?

SOFT?!
HE WAS THE ONE WHO WAS GOING TO WATCH ME DIE!

OH, COME ON, TIGERCLAW.
IN MY OPINION, FIREHEART FOUGHT ADMIRABLY.
EYE ROLL
NYAAWN!
THANK YOU, WHITESTORM.



HEY, FIREHEART...
ABOUT...WELL, YOU KNOW.
THANKS FOR NOT SAYING ANYTHING.

WAS SHE OKAY AFTER THE BATTLE?
YES.
THANK YOU FOR LETTING HER GO.
THIS ISN'T EASY.
I CAN IMAGINE.

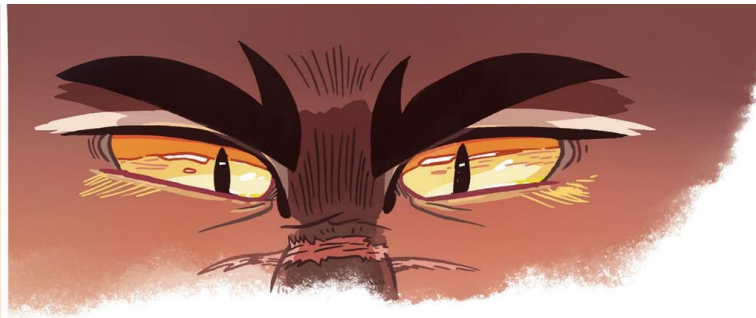
YOU AND SILVERSTREAM...

...I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT, BUT IT'S ALSO NOT MY PLACE TO JUDGE.

THIS IS SOMETHING FOR YOU TO WORK OUT FOR YOURSELF.
JUST KNOW...

...GRAYSTRIPE, WHATEVER YOU DECIDE TO DO...
...I WILL ALWAYS BE YOUR FRIEND, OKAY?

THANKS, FIREHEART.
SOON IT WILL BE NEWLEAF AGAIN; THE SAME SEASON I LEFT THE LIFE OF A KITTYPET TO LIVE AMONG THE FOREST CATS.



TIGERCLAW SUSPECTS THAT I KNOW HIS SECRET, AND HE'LL DO ANYTHING TO KEEP IT.

BUT I'M NOT AFRAID OF HIM LIKE RAVENPAW WAS.

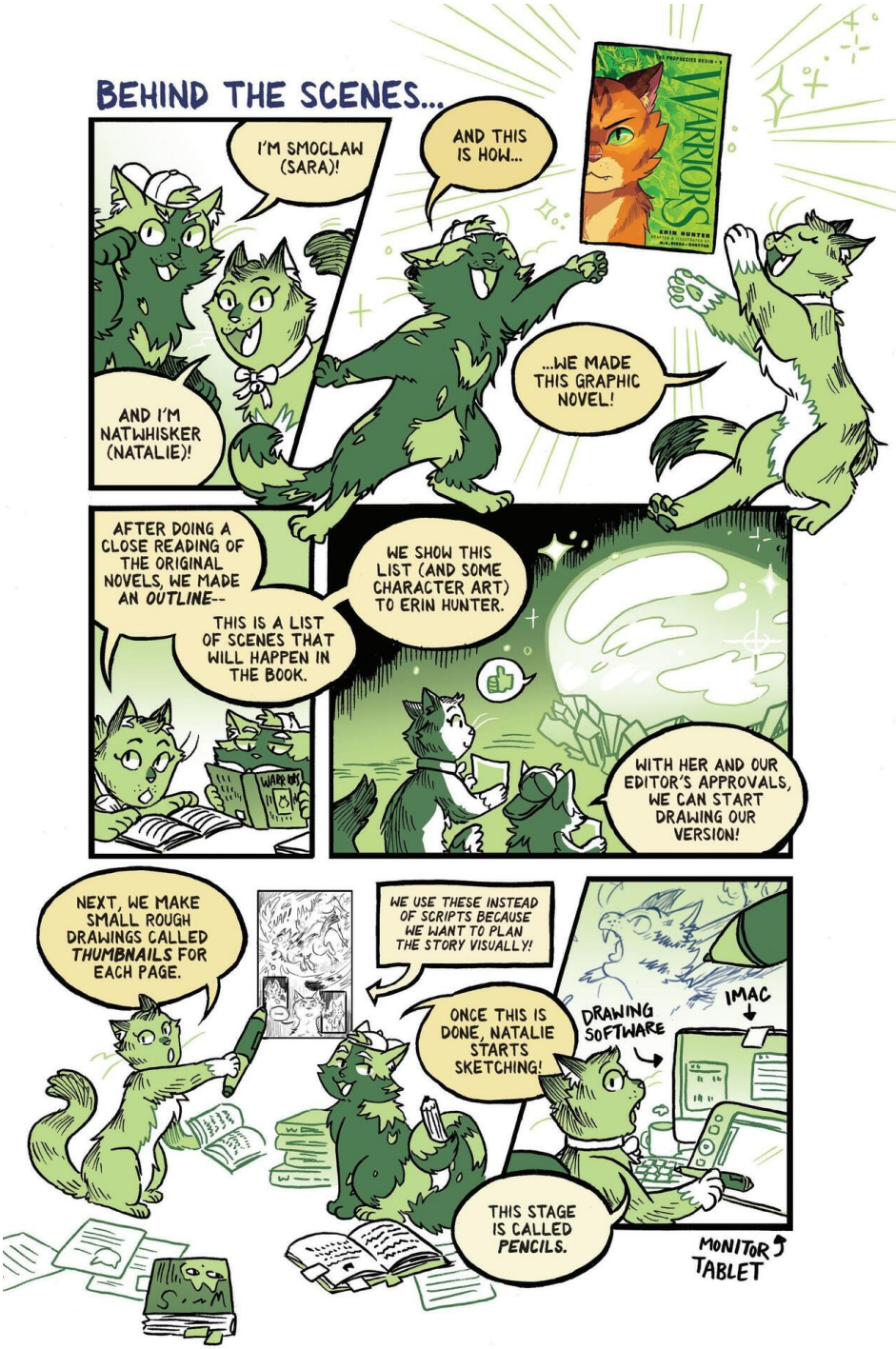
I HAVE MY FRIENDS AND I HAVE MY CLAN.

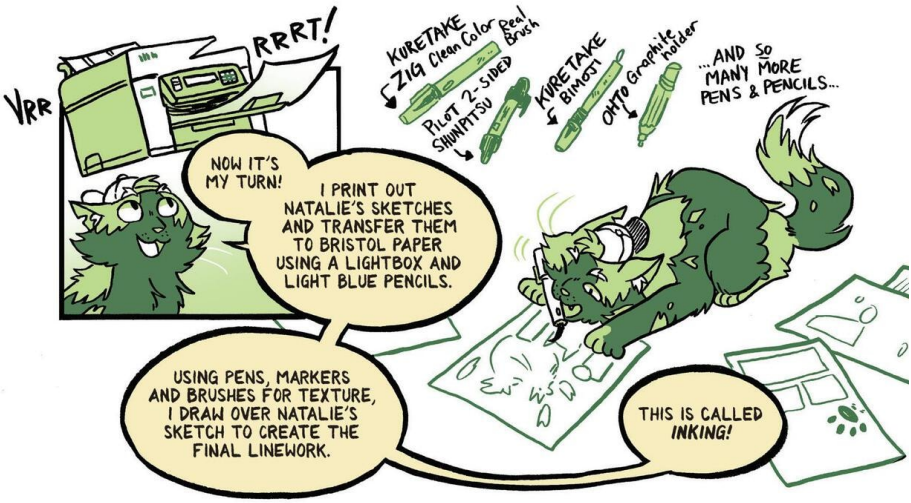
I HAVE MY OWN FOUR PAWS AND MY WARRIOR'S HEART.

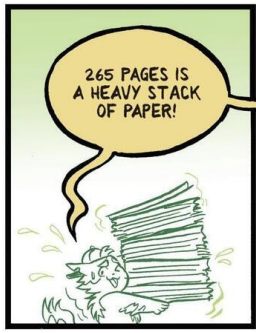
IT WASN'T EASY, BUT...

...I HAVE BECOME A WARRIOR OF THUNDERCLAN!
END OF BOOK ONE

BEHIND THE SCENES...




VRR
RRRT!
NOW IT'S MY TURN!
I PRINT OUT NATALIE'S SKETCHES AND TRANSFER THEM TO BRISTOL PAPER USING A LIGHTBOX AND LIGHT BLUE PENCILS.
KURETAKE ZIG Clean Color Real Brush
PILOT 2-SIDED SHUNPITSU
KURETAKE BIMOJI
OHTO Graphite holder
...AND SO MANY MORE PENS & PENCILS...
USING PENS, MARKERS AND BRUSHES FOR TEXTURE, I DRAW OVER NATALIE'S SKETCH TO CREATE THE FINAL LINEWORK.
THIS IS CALLED INKING!


265 PAGES IS A HEAVY STACK OF PAPER!

I SCAN THE PAGES BACK INTO THE COMPUTER...
AND SEND THEM BACK TO NATALIE TO COLOR!

THIS IS WHERE ALL THE DRAMA OF THE COMIC REALLY COMES IN, IF YOU ASK ME!

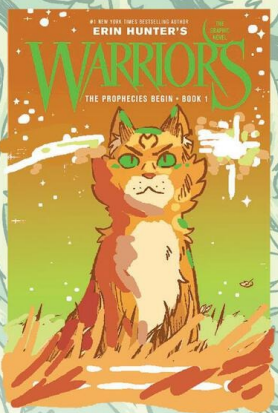
repeat this process approximately 260 times...

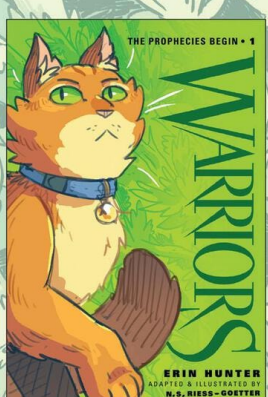
TAPPA TAPPA!
...send the results into our editor and the publisher's design team...

...do edits to fix any typos...
TAPPA TAPPA

...AND THEN... THE MANUSCRIPT IS DONE!
THANKS FOR READING!
WAPPA

ALTERNATE COVER SKETCHES





DEVELOPING FIREHEART'S CHARACTER DESIGN
CHEEK TUFTS, POINT UP
"FIRE" EARS
4 STRIPES ("MACKEREL"-TYPE)
TAIL THIN → FIRE PROOF
FRESH KILL
3 TAIL STRIPES
MEDIUM PAWS
2 STRIPES / LEG
FUR POINTS UP AT JOINTS
We were hoping to make him look fierce and energetic, but also kind and thoughtful...
...and maybe a little bit cute. But not too cute! He is a warrior, after all!

Don't miss the second thrilling
Prophecies Begin graphic novel, which covers
FOREST OF SECRETS and **RISING STORM!**

ERIN HUNTER is inspired by a love of cats and fascination with the ferocity of the natural world. She is the author of the Warriors, Seekers, Survivors, Bravelands, and Bamboo Kingdom series. Erin lives in the UK.

SARA GOETTER & NATALIE RIESS are a comic-making duo from Pennsylvania. They currently live in Texas with their cat, Tilly, who inspired many of the drawings in this book! Their other titles together include *Dungeon Critters* and *The Bawk-Ness Monster*. Sara takes inking very seriously and Natalie loves the colors green and pink.

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